

# **New Brunswick Fire Service Training Standards Advisory Committee (NBFSTSAC)**

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## **History**

The New Brunswick Fire Service Training Standards Advisory Committee was created in October 1999 by the New Brunswick Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) to address the need for provincial standards for fire fighter training in New Brunswick. The Fire Marshal and the fire service stakeholders established a representative team (NBFSTSAC) to examine, develop and recommend contemporary and common stream fire fighter training for the entire New Brunswick Fire Service.

The first meeting in October 1999 focussed on the crafting of a description of the Committee's purpose and mandate. Subsequently numerous meetings have occurred resulting in the adoption of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications 2002 Edition, and the use of the new *Essentials of Fire Fighting 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. They have also joined the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

## **Structure**

The Committee's structure entails one chair, one vice chair and representatives of the New Brunswick Fire Service. The NBFSTSAC is comprised of the following groups and individuals:

- One representative from the Office of the Fire Marshal

- One representative from Department of Training and Employment Development (TED)
- One representative from each of the nine Fire Fighter Associations (Central, Peninsula, Chaleur, Royal, Fundy, North West, Capital, South East, Miramichi)
- One Fire Service Instructors throughout New Brunswick – New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) Miramichi
- Three Instructors and representatives of career departments
- An Administrative Assistant
- Other members at large who the Committee deems to be an asset to this process and the profession

As fire fighter training evolves constantly, the Committee members normally meet twice a year to examine different NFPA training standards and to discuss training requirements for the New Brunswick Fire Service. When needed sub-committees are formed to evaluate each part of an existing standard or develop a new standard reflecting New Brunswick's needs. The results of those duties are presented to the Committee for approval and are recommended to the New Brunswick Fire Marshal.

### **Membership**

Initially, the first Committee members were appointed by the Fire Marshal. The Committee now operates in a fashion that recommends members maintain their appointment for 3 years. The re-election/appointment of Committee members have rotated in such a manner that one third of the positions are appointed/elected annually.

*Active membership as of February 2004*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representation</i>
Laroche Benoit	Chair, OFM
Ross Leon	Vice-chair, NBCC Miramichi
Boudreau Paul	South East

Farrell Harry	Capital
Furrow Clifton	Central
Godin Mario	Chaleur
Gillan Mark	Saint John Fire Department
Haines Judy	OFM
Legère Serge	Fundy
McCabe Don	Moncton Fire Department
Murdoch Ken	Fredericton Fire Department
Parent Roméo	New Brunswick Fire Iservice nstructor
Robichaud Victor	Peninsula
Savoie Réginald	Miramichi
Sirois Serge	North West
Smith Ernie	Chaleur
Smith James R.	Royal

Past members deserve a special thanks for the time and commitment they invested during their appointment in NBFSTSAC.

*Past membership*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representation</i>
Baird Gordon	NBAFC president
Brideau Brigitte	Capital
Cleghorn Rick	Capital
Case Mike	Permanent
Duplessie Edward	NBAFC
Godfrey Raymond	Royal
Godin Conrad	Peninsula
Grandmaison André	North West
Grandmaison Luc	NBAFC
Gourley Philippa	New Brunswick Fire Marshal
Hammer Doug	NBAFC president
Kavanagh Peter	ELG
Keenan Tim	Capital
Kennedy Fred	New Brunswick Fire Service Instructor
Lang Léo	North West
Marker Mel	ELG
McCarthy Steve	TED
McCrea Karen	OFM
McKinnon Sandy	Miramichi
McLaughlin John C.	New Brunswick Fire Marshal
McLean Doug	Central
Moreau Don	Independent
Nadeau Gérald	TED
Orr Clifford	Central
Pelletier Suzanne	OFM
Price Jody	NBAFC Training Director
Richardson Jeff	Fundy
Rousselle Léandre	NBCC Miramichi
Scott Gordon	Chaleur
Smith Ernie	Chaleur

Sylvio Ferron	Peninsula
Spencer Brian	Independent
Thibodeau Norman	OFM
Whalen Stephanie	ELG

## **Purpose**

The Committee's purpose is to:

- advise and make recommendations to the Fire Marshal on training standard requirements, as they apply to the New Brunswick Fire Service, and
- establish the partnership arrangements between the Office of the Fire Marshal, the Department of Training and Employment Development, the New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs, and the representative organizations.

## **Mandate**

The Committee's mandate is to:

- provide technical support and to make recommendations to the Fire Marshal with regards to fire service training standards for all New Brunswick fire fighters.

## **Training**

The Committee has unanimously voted to support common stream NFPA based fire fighter training. To date, the following documents were reviewed by the Committee and recommended for adoption:

- NFPA 1001, the Standard for Fire Fighter Personal Qualifications. Fire fighter training curriculum was developed and implemented in September 2002.
- NFPA 1002, Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualification. The curriculum was reviewed and two recommendations emerged from the revision. A) The New Brunswick Safety Council Driver Training Program and B) The Volunteer Fire Fighter Insurance Service Driver Training Program will be used for driver training.
- NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigators based on the Manitoba model. This course is IFSAC accredited.

- NFPA 1041, the Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications.
- NFPA 1451 (NB version), the Standard for Fire Service Vehicle Operations Training Program.
- The Department of National Defense Physical Fitness Program and the York study fitness evaluation.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Please feel free to send any additional questions to Mr. Benoit Laroche, chair of the NBFSTSAC at Benoit.Laroche@gnb.ca. Questions submitted will be posted online in this section and answered accordingly.

- **What is Provincial Certification?**
- **What is International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC)?**
- **Is a New Brunswick fire fighter legally required to have his Fire Fighter I (FF I) to fight fires?**
- **How will the new standards affect me and will my FF I continue to be recognised?**
- **How many hours of training are required to achieve FF I and FF II under the new standard?**
- **Are more hours required now than previously for fire fighters to achieve their FF I or FF II?**
- **Who administers the FF I examination?**
- **Can a person challenge the FF I or FF II examination?**
- **Is a special driver's license needed to drive a fire apparatus?**
- **Is there a medical form available for fire fighters?**

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**Q: What is Provincial Certification?**

**A:** The Provincial Certification is a certification that is recognised throughout the province of New Brunswick only. The Provincial certification is achieved by completing the theory and practical training prescribed by the standard and completing a written examination with a 60% pass mark. It is recognised in the Province of New Brunswick only.

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**Q: What is International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC)?**

**A:** IFSAC is a peer driven, self governing system that accredits both fire service certification programs and higher education fire-related degree programs. IFSAC is recognised throughout 8 Canadian provinces and most of the United States. It is achieved by completing the theory and practical training prescribed by the standard and completing a written and practical examination with a 75 % pass mark.

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**Q: Is a New Brunswick fire fighter legally required to have his Fire Fighter I (FF I) to fight fires?**

**A:** Yes, an employee must be trained for the job he will perform.

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**Q: How will the new standards affect me and will my FF I continue to be recognised under the new standard?**

**A:** Fire fighters with their FF I will continue to be recognized. The new standard will be used for the new fire fighters' training only. The updated training program that started in September 2003 will be used. It is anticipated that the monthly training sessions carried out in the fire departments will use the most recent version of training material available, which follows the new standard.

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**Q: How many hours of training do the new standards require to achieve FF I and FF II?**

**A:** Fire Fighter I is comprised of 103 hours of theory which is administered by NBCC Miramichi Fire Service Instructors and 100 hours of practical

training carried out at the fire station under the supervision of the local Fire Chief.

**B:** Fire Fighter II is comprised of 79 hours of theory which is administered by NBCC Miramichi Fire Service Instructors and 30 hours of practical training carried out at the fire station under the supervision of the Fire Chief.

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**Q: Are more hours required now than previously for fire fighters to achieve their FF I or FF II?**

**A:** No, the previous FF I was a total of 275 hours of training and the FF II was 95 hours. The new standards require 103 hours of theory and 100 hours of practical training for FF I and 79 hours to achieve FF II.

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**Q: Who administers the FF I examination?**

**A:** A third party examination has been established by the Office of the Fire Marshal who controls the examination question bank and administers the exams.

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**Q: Can a person challenge the FF I or FF II examination?**

**A:** No, a person must take the FF I course provided by a qualified Fire Service Instructor recognised by the training delivery agency, NBCC Miramichi.

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**Q: Is a special driver's license needed to drive a fire apparatus?**

**A:** A valid driver's license for the class of vehicle being operated is required by the law. Every person who operates a motor vehicle in New Brunswick must demonstrate that he/she has the qualifications necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle.

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**Q: Is there a medical form available for fire fighters?**

**A:** Yes, for the departments that don't have a medical form and would like to have one the OFM can provide you with a form that was developed by the NBFSTSAC.

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