



Lunenburg Regional  
**FES**  
Fire & Emergency Services

## General Operating Guideline # 2003

**Subject:** Firefighter Training Classification and Requirements

**Approval:** June 20, 2024

### Section 1: Purpose

The safety of our Fire Department members is our priority. For our firefighters who respond to emergency calls it is imperative that all are properly trained to safely and effectively carry out the tasks assigned to them and safeguard their life, the lives of other responders and the lives of those we serve. The purpose of this guideline is to provide a system of identification and credentialing to communicate the responder's level of training to incident command, department personnel and other responders on the emergency scene.

### Section 2: Scope

The training classification guideline is applicable to Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Service personnel.

### Section 3: Definitions

**" Training Course "** means a course meeting the requirements outlined in the current applicable training manuals issued by the International Fire Services Training Association (IFSTA)

**" IDLH Atmosphere "** (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health) means an atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiant substance that poses an immediate threat to life or would cause irreversible or delayed adverse health effects or would interfere with an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

**" Operating Zones "** provide guidance to the Incident Commander and Safety Officer regarding potential hazards, injuries and risks to life safety in the various working areas of an incident scene. These operating zones are typically defined based on the level of threat or exposure to dangerous atmospheres or conditions that can be expected and determine the training and level of personal protection required to operate within the specific areas. On a typical incident scene these zones are dynamic, expanding or contracting with changing scene conditions. It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander and Safety Officer to maintain situational awareness of scene conditions and the assignment of personnel working within the scene areas.

Generally these operating zones are defined as follows:

**" hot zone "** means the area immediately surrounding a fire or other incident, where the risk of injury or death from heat, smoke, and toxic gases is high. It is a working environment or operating zone within which only qualified SILVER or RED tag firefighters wearing appropriate levels of protective clothing and SCBA should be operating.

**" warm zone "** means the area surrounding the hot zone, where potential safety hazards exist but generally do not represent an immediate threat of injury or death. It is the transition area between the Hot and Cold zones, where responders perform support operations and enter and exit the hot zone. Although this area is typically less contaminated, personnel operating in the warm zone must use personal protective clothing and equipment to avoid exposure to hazardous substances. Depending upon the atmosphere present, SCBA may or may not be required.

**" cold zone "** means the area where there is no immediate danger or risk of injury from heat, smoke, and toxic gases or other hazards. In this zone, typical scene support operations are carried out, e.g. equipment supply, water supply, personnel staging, traffic control, firefighter rehab etc. The cold zone is free of contamination and only basic personal protective clothing specific to the tasks assigned, e.g. boots, gloves, safety glasses should be required.

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“**Incident zone (scene)** ” means the wider perimeter outside of the operating zones that is established as the emergency scene to keep unauthorized persons away from the scene and out of danger. Typically, this perimeter would be controlled by police or specific fire department personnel.

“**IFSTA**” means the International Fire Service Training Association which provides firefighter training curriculum meeting the standards of NFPA 1001

“**NFPA 1001**” means the Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualification which identifies the minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) for career and volunteer fire fighters whose duties are primarily structural in nature.

“**NFPA 1720** ” means the Standard for the Organizations and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments.

“**NFPA 1072**” means the Standard for Hazardous Materials/ Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications

### Section 4: General Responsibility

As general policy, fire departments shall:

1. Develop and maintain a Department Training Policy and Program. NFPA 1720 requires that volunteer fire departments and combination fire departments have a training program and policy in place to ensure that all volunteer firefighters have the skills needed to safely and successfully execute all operations they may be asked to perform.
2. Provide required training to its membership to ensure safe and effective fire department operations.
3. Maintain training records for membership documenting completion of the training for the tasks assigned.
4. Maintain an ID card identification system to communicate a firefighter’s training level to department personnel and command on the emergency scene.
5. Identify and approve (Fire Chief) each member’s classification using established standards. Any exceptions to the minimum training requirements must be approved by the Chief.
6. Control the incident response of a firefighter to the approved levels of training.
7. Require personnel to inform Officers or IC of any training need or personal limits that may adversely impact the safe execution of tasks assigned.

### Section 5: Training Classifications and Requirements

There are three basic firefighter training classifications used, namely **GREEN Tag, SILVER Tag and RED Tag**. Personnel response to an emergency is dependent on this classification which documents the highest level of training as indicated. Firefighters that have specialized training can respond based on their basic tag color and any additional training achieved and documented.

No fire fighter may be permitted to participate in firefighting activities until that individual has successfully completed the required training and has the skills needed to safely and successfully execute the operations they may be asked to perform.

#### 1. Fire Department Member Orientation

The general fire department orientation will be provided to all new firefighters. Although details will vary per department the general orientation should cover as a minimum the following topics;

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<b>Firefighter Orientation Topics</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Fire District and Neighboring Mutual Aid Partners	Department GOGs
Department Policies and Operating Guidelines and Records	Department GOGs
Department Incident Command Structure and Communications	Department GOGs and ICS Canada if applicable
Insurance Policies (WCB and Private Insurances)	Department GOGs
Hazard Assessments and Scene Safety Procedures	Department GOGs
Incident Reporting and Investigation	Department GOGs, IFSTA
Scene Accountability Procedures	Department GOGs
Protective Clothing and Safety Equipment	Department GOGs, IFSTA
Apparatus/ Equipment Overview	Department GOGs
ID tags and Specific Training Requirements	Department GOGs
Standard First Aid and CPR C	Department GOGs (certificate or course scheduled)

The general fire department orientation should be successfully completed and documented before the member is issued a training tag and proceeds to the next levels of training as may be required. Without successful completion of the general orientation firefighters should not be responding to emergency calls.

**2. GREEN Tag (colored carabiner): Support (Exterior) Firefighter**

For a GREEN tag classification a firefighter must complete the entry level Department Orientation and have the skills needed to safely and successfully execute the specific tasks they may be asked to perform.

A GREEN tag firefighter may respond to fire related emergencies including structure fires, however, perform only exterior and support operations in the *cold zone* where typical scene support operations are carried out, e.g. equipment supply, water supply, personnel staging, traffic control, firefighter rehab etc.

A GREEN tag firefighter with a current standard first aid CPR/AED certificate may perform first aid duties as may be required on or off scene and respond to EHS dispatched medical emergencies provided he/she has a valid Medical First Response (MFR) Tag as issued by Emergency Health Services (EHS).

Apparatus pump operations and water supply (pumps hydrants, dry hydrants and drafting) are typically handled within the cold zone. These tasks can be assigned to Green Tag firefighters as specialized tasks provided they have successfully completed the appropriate training (Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001).

Similarly, traffic control on a scene is carried out in the cold zone. These tasks can be assigned to Green Tag firefighters provided they have successfully completed the appropriate training in accordance with The Nova Scotia Emergency Responders Traffic Management Manual, Traffic Management Guidelines for Emergency Scenes.

Based upon the discretion of the Incident commander GREEN Tag firefighters may enter the *warm zone* to provide immediate assistance if this can be done safely.

GREEN Tag firefighters shall not engage in activities in the *hot zone* where an IDLH atmosphere is present or possible.

**Note:** Although a GREEN tag may be issued to a firefighter and recognized on scene for tasks assigned in the *cold zone* it is up to the Fire Chief to determine if any limitations need to be considered for specific firefighter training and skill

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levels. It is with this consideration that fire departments may decide to assign appropriate probationary periods or outline restrictions on the tasks that may be assigned to the GREEN tag member.

**3. SILVER Tag (colored carabiner) Intermediate Firefighter**

A SILVER tag firefighter may respond to all fire related emergencies including structure fires and perform duties within the *warm* and *hot zone* excluding interior entry and fire attack.

For a SILVER tag classification a firefighter must have completed the SILVER tag training requirements and have the skills needed to safely and successfully execute the operations they may be asked to perform.

Training Course	Reference
Fire Department Communications and Incident Command	Current IFSTA Essentials, NFPA 1001, ICS
Orientation and Fire Service History	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Firefighter Health and Safety	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Fire Behavior	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Building Construction	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Personnel Protective Equipment	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
S.C.B.A. Training and FF Survival	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Portable Fire Extinguishers	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Ropes Webbing & Knots	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Scene Lighting and Power supply	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Fire Hose	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Ground Ladders Usage and Safety	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Fire Streams (exterior attack)	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Vehicle Fires	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Hazmat Awareness	Current IFSTA Hazmat Response or NFPA 1072
Water Safety Awareness	Department GOGs

**4. RED tag (colored carabiner) Interior Firefighter**

A RED tag firefighter may respond to all fire related emergencies including structure fires and perform duties within the *warm* and *hot zone* including interior entry and fire attack.

For a RED tag classification a firefighter must have completed the SILVER Tag requirements and complete the additional training courses and required task skills including:

Training Course	Reference
Silver Tag Requirements	Department Training Records
Search and Rescue, Victim Removal and Firefighter Survival	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Forcible Entry	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Ventilation	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Fire Stream (Interior above and below grade)	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Fire Control <sup>1</sup>	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Suppression Systems	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Loss Control and Protecting Evidence	Current IFSTA Essentials or NFPA 1001
Hazmat Operations <sup>2</sup> (Optional for Red Tag.)	Current IFSTA Hazmat Response or NFPA 1072

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**Note 1:** Live fire control training should be in accordance with IFSTA requirements.

**Note 2:** The required firefighter training courses for RED tag designation include the completion of FF Level 1 firefighter training courses for interior fire operations with the exception of Hazmat Operations. Hazmat Operations is required for Level I (Pro Board) Certification.

**Note 3.** Due to special operations some departments may add to the basic RED tag requirements e.g. firefighting using aerial apparatus.

RED tag members are able to complete other specialized training courses as required by a specific assignment within the department e.g. Rapid Intervention Teams, Vehicle Extrication, Fire Investigation etc.

**Section 6: Ongoing Training Requirements**

Ongoing training should be outlined in the Fire Department training program. Refresher training is necessary to maintain firefighter skill levels and typically held on a monthly basis at the department or through recognized training organizations. Refresher training for GREEN tags will be focused on general fire department standard operating policy and guidelines and any specific training provided for support operations. With a focus on firefighter safety, critical firefighter skills for SILVER and RED tags should be covered at least annually. Firefighter refresher training including those listed below.

**GREEN Tags**

Department standard operating guidelines
Refresher training on specific support operations in the <i>cold zone</i> .

**SILVER Tags**

<b>Annual Refresher Training</b>
S.C.B.A. Training and FF Survival
Fire Streams (exterior attack)

**RED Tags**

<b>Annual Refresher Training</b>
Search and Rescue, Victim Removal and Firefighter Survival
Forcible Entry
Ventilation
Fire Stream (Exterior, Interior above and below grade, vehicle fires)
Fire Control (including live fire scenarios)

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