

# **CERTIFICATION CURRICULUM MANUAL**

## **CHAPTER TEN**

### **INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER**

**NFPA 1521, 2015 Edition**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017**



**Texas Commission on Fire Protection**  
P.O. Box 2286 Austin, Texas 78768-2286 (512) 936-3838

## **OVERVIEW INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER**

The Incident Safety Officer is required to meet the Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications*, 2015 edition.

The following items are included in Chapter 10 of this curriculum manual:

- Course Instructor Information
- Reference List (textbooks and other recommended course materials)
- Course Outline (establishes the recommended hours for teaching this course)

This is a voluntary (non-mandatory) certification, therefore a formal “curriculum” is not provided. Please use chapter 5 of NFPA 1521 as a guide when creating your own course curriculum.

Performance skills are available in Chapter 10 of the Skills Manual.

All documents in this curriculum manual, and in the skills manual, are available free of charge to download, copy and distribute as necessary. The TCFP does not provide printed copies.

### **Definition of an Incident Safety Officer**

An Incident Safety Officer is an individual who has met the requirements of Fire Officer Level I specified in NFPA 1021, *Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications* and Chapter 5 of NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer* and has the knowledge, skill, and abilities to manage incident scene safety by having and maintaining a knowledge of:

- Fire suppression operations,
- Technical rescue operations,
- Hazardous materials operations,
- Building construction,
- Fire science and behavior relative to predicting hostile fire events,
- The Incident Command System,
- The fire department’s personnel accountability system,
- Incident scene rehabilitation strategies,
- The accident investigation and review process,
- Post-Incident analysis procedures.

Additional Incident Safety Officer duties include:

- Risk evaluation
- Resource evaluation
- Hazard identification and communication
- Action plan review

- Safety briefings
- Collapse zoning
- Safety committee participation

## **COURSE INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

### **Instructor Qualifications**

Incident Safety Officer courses must be taught by a person meeting the requirements described in Chapter 427§307 of the TCFP Standards Manual.

### **Supplemental Information**

Instructors are expected to provide supplemental information if the main reference text does not cover all of the knowledge requirements set forth in the NFPA standard.

### **Certification Testing**

Testing for certification in the state of Texas will be based on the knowledge and skills requirements in all sections of Chapter 5 of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications*, 2015 edition. Any training program must strictly adhere to this NFPA standard.

All test questions and performance skills evaluations will be based on the NFPA Job Performance Requirements (JPRs), requisite knowledge objectives, and requisite skills objectives found in the NFPA standard. Additionally, questions and performance skill evaluations may include information found in, or derived from, the NFPA standard annex, particularly Annex A, which includes explanatory material that may further clarify JPRs. The following is an example from NFPA 1521, section 5.3.1:

<b>NFPA Standard/Curriculum</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
5.3.1 Determine incident environmental and operational factors and confirm the establishment of rapid intervention crew (RIC) and evaluate the need to increase RIC capability, given an incident or planned event that includes one or more immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) elements, responders engaged in tactical operations, a pre-assigned RIC, and an IAP, so that a recommendation is offered to the IC.	NFPA JPR number 5.3.1
<b>(A) Requisite Knowledge:</b> RIC criteria for NFPA 1500, <i>Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program</i> ; NFPA 1561, <i>Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System</i> ; NFPA 1710, <i>Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments</i> ; NFPA 1720, <i>Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire</i>	Requisite knowledge objectives for 5.3.1  Written test questions and/or performance skills will be used to test these knowledge components on the state certification exam.

<p><i>Departments; AHJ SOP/Gs; and directives for RIC establishment and use.</i></p>	
<p><b>(B) Requisite Skills:</b> Interpret applicable regulations, guidelines, procedures, and consensus standards for implementation at incidents; audit conditions to ensure policies are being followed; and formulate recommendations for incident command action.</p>	<p>Requisite skills objectives for 5.3.1</p> <p>Only performance skills will be used to test these objectives on the state certification exam.</p>
<p><b>A.5.3.1:</b> The intention of this requirement is that the ISO check to see that the IC has established a rapid intervention team. In cases where this has not happened, the ISO should inform the IC of the need.</p>	<p>Appendix A:        Explanatory Material for 5.3.1</p>

### TCFP Standards Manual

It is critical that the Course Instructor review the chapters in the TCFP Standards Manual that apply to this curriculum. Of primary importance are the following chapters:

- Chapter 421, *Standards for Certification*
- Chapter 427, *Training Facility Certification*
- Chapter 435, *Fire Fighter Safety*
- Chapter 437, *Fees*
- Chapter 457, *Incident Safety Officer Certification*

These chapters do not address every issue that could impact this curriculum; therefore, the Course Instructor is encouraged to become familiar with the TCFP Standards Manual.

### Descriptions of Certification Levels

For additional information, see Chapter 421 of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection Standards Manual for Fire Protection Personnel.

**CHAPTER TEN  
FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY OFFICER  
INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER  
CURRICULUM OUTLINE**

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED HOURS</b>
1002-5.1	General	2
1002-5.2	General Requirements	10
1002-5.3	Fire Suppression Operations	8
1002-5.4	Technical Rescue Operations	4
1002-5.5	Hazardous Materials Operations	4
1002-5.6	Accident Investigations and Review	4
1002-5.7	Post-Incident Analysis	4
1002	Performance Skills*	12
	<b>TOTAL RECOMMENDED HOURS</b>	<b>48</b>

\*The recommended hours for skills evaluation is based on 12 students. Actual hours needed will depend on the number of students, the number of examiners, availability of equipment, and the student skill level.

## REFERENCE LIST FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY OFFICER INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER CURRICULUM

Certified Training Facilities approved to teach this curriculum must have the following reference materials:

### Required References

*Fire Department Incident Safety Officer* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Revised ) (2020). Dodson, David W. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

*NFPA 1500: Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program* (2013 ed.). Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

*NFPA 1521: Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications* (2020 ed). Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

*NFPA 1951 Standard on Protective Ensembles for Technical Rescue Incidents.* (2013 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

*Certification Curriculum Manual for Fire Protection Personnel*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Fire Protection

*Standards Manual for Fire Protection Personnel*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Fire Protection

### Recommended References

*Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29 Part 1910.120.* United States. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

*Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29 Part 1910.146.* United States. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

*NFPA 472: Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents.* (2013 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

*NFPA 1006 Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications.* (2013 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

*NFPA 1584 Standard on the Rehabilitation Process for Members During Emergency Operations and Training Exercises.* (2015 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

*NFPA 1710 Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments.* (2016 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.