

**CHAPTER 73**

**STANDARDS FOR FIRE SERVICE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A. 52:27D-198, 219, 25d, 25k, 25gg and 24hh, and 52:27B-139.12.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2005 d.225, effective June 14, 2005.  
See: 36 N.J.R. 3652(a), 37 N.J.R. 2674(a).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

Chapter 73, Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification, expires on June 14, 2010.

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 73, Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification, was originally codified in Title 5 as Chapter 18C, Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification. Chapter 18C was adopted as R.1990 d.114, effective February 5, 1990. See: 21 N.J.R. 1655(a), 22 N.J.R. 337(c).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66 (1978), Chapter 18C, Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification, was readopted as R.1995 d.58, effective January 3, 1995. See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).

Subchapter 6, Hazardous Materials/Incident Commander Certifications, was adopted as R.1996 d.84, effective March 4, 1996. See: 27 N.J.R. 1845(a), 28 N.J.R. 1377(b).

Pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 002-1998, Chapter 18C, Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 5:73, effective July 1, 1998. See: 30 N.J.R. 1347(a), 30 N.J.R. 2644(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 73, Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification, was readopted as R.2000 d.30, effective December 22, 1999. See: 31 N.J.R. 3257(a), 32 N.J.R. 273(c).

Subchapter 7, Fire Police Officer Training, was adopted as R.2001 d.57, effective February 20, 2001. See: 32 N.J.R. 3253(a), 33 N.J.R. 692(b).

Subchapter 8, Fire Officers, was adopted as R.2003 d.78, effective February 18, 2003. See: 34 N.J.R. 3601(a), 35 N.J.R. 1056(a).

Chapter 73, Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification, was readopted as R.2005 d.225, effective June 14, 2005. See: Source and Effective Date.

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**SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**5:73-1.1 Titles, division into subchapters**

(a) The rules contained in this chapter shall be known as "Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification" and are referred to herein as the Standards.

(b) The Standards are divided into seven parts:

1. Subchapter 1 is entitled "General Provisions" and may be cited throughout the Standards as N.J.A.C. 5:73-1, and when referred to in subchapter 1 of this chapter, may be referred to as this subchapter.

2. Subchapter 2 is entitled "Educational Programs and Facilities" and may be cited throughout the Standards as N.J.A.C. 5:73-2, and when referred to in subchapter 2 of this chapter, may be referred to as this subchapter.

3. Subchapter 3 is reserved.

4. Subchapter 4 is entitled "Firefighter I" and may be cited throughout the Standards as N.J.A.C. 5:73-4, and when referred to in subchapter 4 of this chapter, may be referred to as this subchapter.

5. Subchapter 5 is entitled "Instructor" and may be cited throughout the Standards as N.J.A.C. 5:73-5, and when referred to in subchapter 5 of this chapter, may be referred to as this subchapter.

6. Subchapter 6 is entitled "Incident Management System Certification" and may be cited throughout the Standards as N.J.A.C. 5:73-6, and when referred to in subchapter 6 of this Chapter, may be referred to as this subchapter.

7. Subchapter 7 is entitled "Fire Police Officer Training" and may be cited throughout the Standards as N.J.A.C. 5:73-7, and when referred to in subchapter 7 of this chapter, may be referred to as this subchapter.

Amended by R.1998 d.85, effective February 17, 1998.  
See: 29 N.J.R. 3210(a), 30 N.J.R. 641(a).

In (b), substituted a reference to six parts for a reference to five parts, and added 6.

Amended by R.2001 d.57, effective February 20, 2001.  
See: 32 N.J.R. 3253(a), 33 N.J.R. 692(b).

In (b), substituted "seven" for "six" in the introductory paragraph, and added (b)7.

### 5:73-1.2 Authority

These standards are promulgated by the Commissioner of Community Affairs pursuant to the authority of the Uniform Fire Safety Act (P.L. 1983, c.383, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-192 et seq., specifically 52:27D-198 and 52:27D-219) and of the Act which establishes a Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs (P.L. 1983, c.382, amended by P.L. 1993, c.218; N.J.S.A. 52:27D-25a et seq., specifically 52:27D-25d, and further amended by P.L. 1995, c.266; N.J.S.A. 52:27D-25a et seq., specifically 52:27D-25i, j, k and m.)

Administrative change.

See: 27 N.J.R. 2886(b).

Amended by R.1998 d.85, effective February 17, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3210(a), 30 N.J.R. 641(a).

Added a reference to P.L. 1995, c.266; N.J.S.A. 52:27D-25a et seq., specifically 52:27D-25i, j, k, and m.

### 5:73-1.3 Intent and purpose

(a) It is the intent of the Standards to control all matters relating to qualifications for, and the training and certification of all members of the fire service, including firefighters and officers engaged in, or to be engaged in, fire suppression activities, and all fire service instructors.

1. For purposes of this chapter, "fire service" shall not include wildland and forestland firefighters in the State forest fire service.

(b) The Uniform Fire Safety Act and related legislation, specifically N.J.S.A. 52:27D-25a et seq., have been adopted to ensure public safety and welfare. In order for fire suppression activities to be conducted adequately and effectively, members of the fire service will need to have sufficient knowledge and competence. This can best be achieved through the creation of an education and training program and the development of certification requirements.

1. It is the purpose of this chapter to establish standards and procedures for the certification of persons involved in fire suppression activities including but not limited to firefighter recruits, firefighters, fire officers, and fire service instructors.

(c) Unless otherwise specifically provided, all references to article or section numbers or to provisions not specifically identified by number, shall be construed to refer to such article, section or provision of this chapter.

Amended by R.1997 d.286, effective July 21, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 722(a), 29 N.J.R. 3243(a).

Added (a)1.

### 5:73-1.4 Definitions

The following terms shall have the meanings indicated except where the context clearly requires otherwise.

"Acquired building" means any structure acquired by the eligible organization from a property owner for the purpose of conducting live fire training exercises.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs or his or her delegate.

"Department" means the Department of Community Affairs.

"Division" means the Division of Fire Safety of the Department of Community Affairs.

"Eligible organization" means a fire department or district, or a combination of fire departments or districts, a fire brigade, an institution of higher learning, the New Jersey State Fire College or a recognized governmental entity which has been approved by the Division to offer courses or modules which meet the requirements of this chapter.

"Evolution" means a set of prescribed actions that result in an effective fireground activity.

"Fire police officer" means any member of a duly organized volunteer fire company who has the duty for performing traffic control, scene security, and other related duties at the scene of a public event, fire, fire drill or any other similar occasion.

- ii. Forcible entry tools as specified in N.J.A.C. 5:73-4.3(a)3vi;
- iii. Salvage covers as specified in N.J.A.C. 5:73-4.3(a)11 vi;
- iv. Lengths of rope as specified in N.J.A.C. 5:73-4.3(a)8vi;
- v. Ladders as specified in N.J.A.C. 5:73-4.3(a)18vi;
- vi. PEOSHA approved breathing apparatus for each student;
- vii. PEOSHA approved personal protective clothing for each student;
- viii. Materials for rescue drills as specified in N.J.A.C. 5:73-4.3(a)23vi; and
- ix. Wedges or sprinkler tongs as specified in N.J.A.C. 5:73-4.3(a)25vi.

(d) Classroom Level B: (Reserved).

(e) Drill Area Level B: (Reserved).

(f) Smoke building requirements are as follows:

1. The purpose of the structurally safe smoke building is to acquaint the trainees with the skills and abilities necessary for survival in an oxygen deficient atmosphere by creating a controlled learning situation that is under constant supervision.

2. The smoke building shall meet the following requirements:

- i. There shall be an exterior exit or secondary means of egress on every floor;
- ii. The smoke building shall be equipped for simulating smoke filled atmosphere and conditions;
- iii. The building shall be so designed and equipped so as to allow for constant surveillance of the trainees; and
- iv. There shall be a means to provide emergency ventilation which may include automatic or manual control of roof openings, doors and exterior windows.

3. Smoke used should be of a controlled composition with minimum toxicity. Specially designed mechanical equipment may be installed in the facility to produce smoke.

(g) Drill tower requirements are as follows:

- 1. The purpose of the drill tower is to train fire fighters in basic evolutions using pumper and ladder equipment;
- 2. The tower shall meet the following requirements.
  - i. It shall be not less than two stories in height;

ii. It shall be suitable for use with ladders and rescue equipment;

iii. It shall be so designed as to permit raising, lowering, and maneuvering of hose lines and other equipment;

iv. It may be of wood frame, reinforced concrete, steel or other durable material;

v. It shall have structurally sound interior and exterior walls which will withstand the force of master streams;

vi. It shall contain stairways which provide means of access between floor levels;

vii. All stairway treads should be slip resistant;

viii. The drill tower should include provisions for standpipe connections at all floor levels of the facility;

ix. Roof openings should be provided for practice of ventilation procedures;

x. Safety railings should be provided for roof operations; and

xi. A temporary or permanent safety net on at least one exterior side of the building should be provided.

(h) Live burn facility requirements are as follows:

1. The following apply to burn buildings:

i. The purpose of the burn building is to safely train firefighters in methods of interior fire suppression. Every floor shall have an exterior exit or a second means of egress.

ii. Walls, floors, ceilings, and other permanent features shall have strong resistance to heat generated by Class A materials.

iii. Class B materials shall not be used for fuel except when part of an engineered and designed system, such as propane or natural gas simulation, certified by the manufacturer as having been installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

iv. Emergency ventilation shall be provided by automatic or manual control of the roof openings, doors, and exterior shuttered windows.

2. The following apply to the flammable liquid and flammable gas area:

i. This area should be located as remote from any building as possible. Fencing and/or curbing should be provided as a safety factor.

ii. Pit aprons should be made of concrete, crushed stone, iron ore slag.

iii. There shall be adequate water supply, fuel supply, fuel pumping capability and drainage.

iv. If flammable liquid or gas is fed to an area, the flow shall be controlled by quick shutoff valves. In case of an emergency, an instantaneous shutdown will be necessary.

(i) The following relate to exemptions:

1. An exemption from the training facility requirements may be made upon the following findings:

i. There is no facility in the immediate area where the training can be provided or there are minimum facilities in the area and all prospective applicants cannot be accommodated; and

ii. That alternative training in the form of simulation or other method will be provided which will provide, to the greatest extent possible the same practice/drill opportunity.

2. An application for exemption to this section shall be filed in writing and set forth specifically:

i. A statement of the requirements from which an exemption is sought;

ii. A statement of the manner by which strict compliance with said provisions would result in practical difficulties; and

iii. A statement of the feasible alternatives which would adequately provide the same practice/drill opportunity.

Amended by R.1995 d.59, effective March 6, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4249(a), 27 N.J.R. 891(a).

Amended by R.1997 d.286, effective July 21, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 722(a), 29 N.J.R. 3243(a).

In (h)iv, substituted "ventilation shall be" for "ventilation should be".

Administrative correction.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2207(a).

**5:73-2.5 Life fire training permit**

(a) A permit shall be required and obtained from the Division of Fire Safety for live fire training in, or in any part of, any building, structure, motor vehicle or any other training mock-up or area, or area of land or portion thereof, on which firefighters or industrial fire brigade members are to be trained.

1. Prior to conducting any fire training, including such training for industrial fire brigade members, the instructor-in-charge shall ensure that each participant is certified as Firefighter I in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:73-4 or each participant has completed training modules 4a, 4b, 4c, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b, 9a, 9b, 9c, 14a, 14b, 15, 16a, and 16b as specified in N.J.A.C. 5:73-4.3(a)33vi.

i. In lieu of Firefighter I certification or completion of the required modules, documentation of completion of prerequisite training as required by NFPA 1403, 1997 edition, incorporated herein by reference for the appropriate training facility, must be provided by the fire chief or industrial fire brigade chief.

ii. Industrial fire brigade members receiving training for incipient stage firefighting, advanced exterior firefighting, interior structural firefighting or advanced exterior and interior firefighting including pan fire extinguisher training as described in NFPA 600, Standard on Industrial Fire Brigades, 2000 edition, incorporated herein by reference, must meet the requirements of Section 3-2, 4-2, 5-2 or 6-1 as appropriate, of NFPA 600, 2000 edition, and provide documentation as specified in (a)3 below.

2. Prior to conducting any live fire training for industrial fire brigade members, the industrial brigade must provide the eligible organization and/or the approved facility with a copy of the industrial brigade's Organizational Statement as required by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration a minimum of two weeks prior to the scheduled training. Failure to provide this statement and supporting documents will prohibit the industrial brigade members from participating in live fire training.

i. All live fire training provided to industrial fire brigades must be conducted in accordance with NFPA 600, Standard on Industrial Fire Brigades, 2000 edition, NFPA 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, 1997 edition, and documented as specified in (a)3 below.

3. The instructor-in-charge shall accept verification of certification or training, or the completion of the necessary training modules, from an officer of the participant's fire department or industrial fire brigade, in writing, on fire department or industry letterhead or as part of the application to use the approved facility. Such verification shall become part of the written record required by (e)6 below.

i. The eligible organization shall accept verification that all live fire training provided to industrial fire brigade members will be conducted in accordance with NFPA 600, 2000 edition, and NFPA 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, 1997 edition, from the chief of the industrial fire brigade, in writing, on industry letterhead. Such verification shall become part of the written record as required by (e)6 below.

(b) Permits shall be required, and shall be obtained from the Division, for any of the activities specified in this section. Permits shall at all times be kept at the premises designated therein and shall at all times be subject to inspection by the Division.

(c) Any permanent fire service training organization shall be eligible to apply for an annual Type A permit to conduct live fire training exercises.

1. Initially, application for a permit shall be made not less than 10 business days prior to the anticipated start of live fire training exercises. Application for renewal of a permit shall be made no less than 10 business days prior to the expiration date of the existing permit. All applications for permits shall be made on form(s) provided by the Division.

2. Permits shall be valid for a period not to exceed one year from the date of issuance unless revoked or suspended in accordance with (f) below.

i. The expiration date of all Type A permits shall be July 31.

(d) N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a)3viii shall regulate permits for live fire extinguisher training.

(e) Requirements for live fire training exercises are as follows:

1. Applications shall certify that all live fire training exercises shall be conducted in accordance with NFPA 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, 1997 ed., for the type of facility as described in that standard, where the live fire training will be conducted. In the event of any conflict between this section and the NFPA standards, the provisions of this section shall apply.

2. The instructor-in-charge of the live fire training exercise shall meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:73-5.3 and hold valid certification issued by the Division as a Fire Service Instructor Level 2, SCBA/Smokehouse Instructor and Live Burn Instructor.

i. All other instructors utilized for the live fire training exercise shall hold valid certification, at a minimum, as Fire Service Instructor Level 1, SCBA/Smokehouse Instructor and Live Burn Instructor.

3. All participants and instructors shall wear firefighter personal protective gear and equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus, that meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 12:100 when actively participating in live fire training exercises or when exposed to smoke or otherwise hazardous atmospheres.

4. Before any live fire training exercise is commenced, a safety checklist that has been approved by the Division shall be completed by the instructor in charge of the exercise. Such safety checklist shall include, but may not be limited to, the following:

i. Conducting a facility inspection to determine that:

(1) Hazards to personnel are identified and corrected or guarded;

(2) The live burn simulator (if applicable) is tested and found to be operational, in accordance with manufacturer's protocol. Manufacturer's protocol must be submitted if simulator is used.

(3) All emergency controls are tested and operating in accordance with manufacturer's instructions;

(4) The structural integrity of the building is confirmed. If a visual inspection reveals damage to structural members, the services of a professional shall be obtained to confirm and recommend corrective action. Such structural integrity shall be docu-

mented at least annually by an appropriate professional;

(5) Rubbish or excessive combustibles have been removed;

(6) All exits, including at least two means of egress per floor being utilized by students, are accessible and operable. In an existing building, one of the two required means of egress may be a fire escape, unless judged to be dangerous for use under emergency exiting conditions;

(7) Automatic or manual ventilation systems are provided and operational; and

(8) No person shall be placed inside the building to play the role of a victim;

ii. Conducting a briefing with all participants, to include:

(1) A discussion of participant safety;

(2) A familiarization of participants with the facility;

(3) A tour of the facility;

(4) A description of the evolutions to be performed, including operations;

(5) A description of the emergency contingency plan; and

(6) A description and demonstration of the emergency evacuation signal and the procedures to be followed if the signal is used;

iii. Inspecting personal protective equipment (PPE) including:

(1) All participants' PPE complies with N.J.A.C. 12:100-10, Standards for Firefighters;

(2) All required PPE is donned correctly before entry into a hazardous environment;

(3) Personal alert safety system (PASS) devices are activated before participant enters a hazardous area;

(4) Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is worn by all participants; and

(5) All SCBA cylinders are full at the commencement of the evolution;

iv. Assuring the adequacy of extinguishing capability, including:

(1) An adequate water supply;

(2) A minimum of 95 gpm is available through each hand line used for evolutions with actual lines sized to supply anticipated required flow rates;

(3) Properly rated and charged extinguishers are used for extinguisher training; and

(4) A minimum of one back-up hand line and crew are standing by, with line(s) sized to provide a flow at least equal to that required for the evolution, under the direction of a certified instructor;

v. Assuring the proper use of fuels with known burning characteristics, such as:

(1) Use only class A fuel of approved type;

(2) Use fuel at a rate consistent with extinguishing capability;

(3) LP-gas or natural gas used only as part of an engineered and approved system; and

(4) Reserve fuels are stored safely away from live fire; and

vi. Ensuring the safe conduct of the exercise, including:

(1) Provide sufficient staff, and make appropriate participant and instructor assignments, to safely accomplish objectives;

(2) Provide adequate instructor-to-student ratio. When students are Firefighter I Candidates, that ratio shall be a minimum of one instructor for every five students;

(3) Designate a safety officer in accordance with the Fire Service Incident Management System rules, N.J.A.C. 5:75, with no added duties;

(4) Utilize a personnel accountability system;

(5) Provide participants with, or assure their possession of, all necessary tools and implements;

(6) Have emergency medical services (EMS) available. Qualified EMS personnel on site, with or without transport, shall be sufficient at a permanent fire service training facility;

(7) Provide rest, rehabilitation and fluid replenishment, as necessary; and

(8) Conduct evolution with full regard for environmental conditions, with exercises terminated or curtailed by extreme weather.

5. Written records including information relating to the exercise shall be kept. Information shall include, but may not be limited to, the following:

i. The date and time of exercise;

ii. The names of instructors;

iii. The names of participants;

iv. The duration of the exercise; and

v. Problems or abnormalities encountered during the exercise.

6. Any injury requiring admission to a hospital or death occurring during, or as a result of, any live fire training exercise shall be reported to the Division within 24 hours after the occurrence.

(f) The Division shall either approve or deny any application for permit within 10 business days after receipt of each application. If an application for permit is denied, the Division shall inform the applicant of the reason for denial and of any measures necessary to bring the application into compliance.

1. An application which has not been granted within 10 days shall be deemed to have been denied. Such denial may be appealed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:73-1.5(c).

(g) The Division may revoke a permit already issued or deny future applications for permits for just cause. Reasons for revocation may include, but shall not be limited to:

1. Unsafe actions during live fire training exercises;

2. Injuries or death resulting from unsafe actions during exercises; or

3. Violation of this section.

(h) The Commissioner shall enforce and administer this section and is authorized to issue compliance orders to persons and public entities in violation thereof, to petition the Superior Court for injunctive relief enforcing any compliance order, to levy and collect civil penalties of not more than \$500.00 per violation and to institute summary proceedings under the Penalty Enforcement Law (N.J.S.A. 2A:58-1 et seq.) in the Superior Court to recover penalties previously levied. Each day that a violation continues after notice to cease has been given by certified mail or personal service shall be deemed a separate violation.

New Rule. R.1997 d.286, effective July 21, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 722(a), 29 N.J.R. 3243(a).

Amended by R.2001 d.57, effective February 20, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 3253(a), 33 N.J.R. 692(b).

In (d), added the last sentence to the introductory paragraph.

Amended by R.2003 d.77, effective February 18, 2003.

See: 34 N.J.R. 3599(b), 35 N.J.R. 1055(b).

Rewrote (a) and (d); in (e), rewrote the first sentence in 1, amended the N.J.A.C. reference in 3, substituted "Firefighter I Candidates, that" for "Firefighter I Candidate, Grade 2, that" in 4vi(2), deleted former 5 and recodified former 6 and 7 as 5 and 6.

Administrative correction.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2207(a).

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### SUBCHAPTER 3. (RESERVED)

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### SUBCHAPTER 4. FIREFIGHTER I

#### 5:73-4.1 Duties and responsibilities of firefighter I

(a) A certified firefighter I shall work under direct supervision.