



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Position Statement on Minimum Firefighter Training

The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association strongly supports training for firefighters, especially that which promotes safety of the firefighter. The Association believes that training should be based upon nationally accepted standards to meet the requirements set forth in OSHA 29CFR 1910.156 for Fire Brigades and should be documented and verifiable through testing.

One of the common points identified through investigation of firefighter injury and fatality reports is that fire departments should ensure that all fire fighters receive fundamental and refresher training in accordance with national standards such as NFPA 1001 and NFPA 1500. Chapter 1.2 of NFPA 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications 2008 Edition states, "The purpose of this standard shall be to ensure that persons meeting the requirements of this standard who are engaged in firefighting are qualified."

Chapter 5.2.1 of NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program 2007 Edition states, "All members who engage in structural firefighting shall meet the requirements of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications. "

Chapter 1910.156(c)(1) of OSHA 29CFR 1910.156 for Fire Brigades states, "The employer shall provide training and education for all fire brigade members commensurate with those duties and functions that fire brigade members are expected to perform. Such training and education shall be provided to fire brigade members before they perform fire brigade emergency activities."

The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association strongly supports firefighters being given the opportunity to train and encourage members to do so through the training programs carried out in the local fire departments or the South Carolina Fire Academy

By Adoption of the Executive Committee on:

December 20, 2011