



Public Comment No. 6-NFPA 1033-2025 [Global Input]

NFPA 1033 Committee,

I am writing to urge you to consider not changing D.1.4 (3) (a) to include "Function and components of electrical transmission and distribution systems". Most fire investigators do not have a working knowledge of these systems nor should it be expected as the majority of electrical engineers do not have a working knowledge of these systems either. There are many different components to electrical transmission and distribution systems which without training and experience as an electrical line worker or an electrical distribution designer, it would be difficult to testify about these systems as a fire investigator. Additionally, this level of knowledge is usually not needed by an origin and cause investigator outside of specialized investigations such as wild land fire origin and cause investigations.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

The problem resolved would be not creating an unnecessary area of requisite knowledge for all fire investigators whether they investigate wild land fires or not. This should be an area of knowledge for a fire investigator who has passed the NWCG FI-210 course, is familiar with PMS 412 and/or is working on or has completed the task book for a wildland fire investigator. The majority of professionals in the fire investigation industry should not need knowledge of the function and components of electrical transmission and distribution systems to be qualified as an expert in fire investigation if they do not perform wildland fire investigations. The function and components of electrical transmission and distribution systems along with wild land fire investigation is a niche area out side the scope of most fire investigators without specialized training, akin to marine fire investigations.

Related Item

- PI-28, FR-26

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Ward Willis

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Submittal Date: Mon Jun 23 17:49:00 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected

Resolution: The TC recognizes that a fire investigator needs to have a general understanding of electrical distribution systems.



Public Comment No. 8-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 1.3.2.8]

1.3.2.8

Prior to training to meet the requirements of this standard, personnel shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Be at least age 18
- (2) Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- (3) Be subjected to a thorough background and character investigation by the AHJ prior to being accepted as an individual candidate for certification as a fire investigator
- (4) ~~Have completed a minimum of 32 hours of tested training related to the requisite knowledge listed in this standard~~
- (5)

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

This public comment is submitted on behalf of the Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications as determined by a vote at their meeting on July 18, 2025.

The Correlating Committee for Professional Qualifications views a specific hour requirement in the mandatory section as problematic for local and state AHJs. The overall goal of the professional qualification process is to measure the competency of the individual. Having a timeframe associated with a learning activity does not prove an individual has acquired necessary requisite knowledge or skills. The CC views this as a correlation correction to not establish a precedent for other professional qualification standards. The Correlating Committee will work with the technical committee through a task group to formulate alternative text.

Related Item

- PI-36 • FR-8

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Edward Hawthorne

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Affiliation: Chair of Professional Qualifications Correlating Committee

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Submission Date: Mon Jul 21 14:13:40 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Accepted

Resolution: SR-1-NFPA 1033-2025

Statement: The Technical Committee identified that having a specific number of hours for pre-requisite training is a correlation challenge with professional qualification standards.

The Technical Committee will work with the Corelating Committee in between revision cycles to determine if a pre-requisite training aspect should be added in the next edition.



Public Comment No. 24-NFPA 1033-2025 [New Section after 3.3]

TITLE OF NEW CONTENT 3.3.1 Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Artificial intelligence (AI) is technology that provides computers and machines the capability to replicate human learning. AI uses algorithms which are a set of rules or processes to make calculations or perform other operations, such as problem solving and decision-making. Generative AI (GAI) refers to machine learning models that can analyze voluminous and complex data and produce original content such as text, images, or videos.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

AI is an emerging technology and has the potential to dramatically affect many aspects of fire investigators' functions. To be qualified, fire investigators need to know the potential uses and limits of AI. This Public Input provides a definition for AI and Generative AI. It is related to another Public Comment proposing a new section for the "requisite knowledge" for fire investigators in s. 4.1.7.

Related Public Comments for This Document

Related Comment

Public Comment No. 23-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.1.7 [Excluding any Sub-Sections]]

Relationship

Applies the defined concept of Generative AI.

Related Item

- Public Input No. 42-NFPA 1033-2024 [New Section after 3.3.1]

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Terry-Dawn Hewitt

Organization: McKenna Hewitt

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Submission Date: Mon Jul 28 16:19:41 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected

Resolution: The TC identified that the term is not used in the standard.



Public Comment No. 23-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.1.7 [Excluding any Sub-Sections]]

In order to successfully complete the tasks identified in the JPRs of Sections 4.2 through 4.7, the fire investigator shall remain current in the subjects listed as “requisite knowledge” as they relate to fire investigations, which include the following:

- (1) Fire science, including the following:
 - (a) Fire chemistry
 - (b) Thermodynamics
 - (c) Fire dynamics
 - (d) Explosion dynamics
- (2) Fire investigation, including the following:
 - (a) Fire analysis
 - (b) Fire investigation methodology
 - (c) Fire investigation technology
 - (d) Evidence documentation, collection, and preservation
 - (e) Failure analysis and analytical tools
- (3) Fire scene safety, including the following:
 - (a) Hazard recognition, evaluation, and basic mitigation procedures
 - (b) Hazardous materials
 - (c) Safety procedures
- (4) Building and utility systems, including the following:
 - (a) Types of construction
 - (b) Fire protection systems
 - (c) Electricity and electrical systems
 - (d) Fuel gas systems
- (5) Generative AI for fire investigations, including the following:
 - (6) A basic awareness of how generative AI can be used in data analysis, developing an expert opinion, and producing a report
 - (7) Understanding that by providing information to an AI platform for the purpose of conversing with an AI system (chatbot) or having AI-generated content, the investigator may be breaching confidentiality concerning the investigation or may be providing the AI platform the right to copy, distribut, or publicly display any information provided
 - (8) Knowing how to verify the accuracy of AI-generated work products that the investigator uses
 - (9) Recognizing that AI-generated content may be subject to inherent bias and how such bias can be mitigated

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Since NFPA 1033 is only revised every five years, it is important right now to add a requirement that to be qualified, investigators need to know about generative AI - its benefits and risks. For example, Microsoft has launched "Copilot," an online service that investigators who have access to Microsoft products such as Word or Excel have access to use. Users have to confirm that they agree to Microsoft's "Terms of Use." Many people will agree to these terms of use without reading them or understanding their implications. For example, Microsoft says that when you provide content or input to its AI service, Copilot, you are granting Microsoft and others permission to use this information, including to copy, distribute, or publicly display the content you provide. Microsoft is not alone in using information provided to its AI platform. Therefore, a fire investigator who converses with an AI service through a Chatbot or provides information so that the AI assistant can draft a report, may be breaching their duty of confidentiality to a department, agency, employer, or client. An investigator does not have to be an AI expert, but they should have a base level of knowledge about AI's uses in investigations as well as the risks.

The NFPA 921, 2027 ed. is also in an active revision cycle and is considering recommendations on the topic of AI for fire investigators. In my view, we need to flag AI as being essential to the requisite knowledge of investigators now, so that investigators can get an awareness level of the pros and cons of this rapidly evolving and critically important technology.

Related Public Comments for This Document

<u>Related Comment</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
Public Comment No. 24-NFPA 1033-2025 [New Section after 3.3]	
Public Comment No. 25-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.6.5(A)]	
Public Comment No. 26-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.7.1(A)]	
	<u>Related Item</u>
• Public Input No. 43-NFPA 1033-2024 [New Section after 4.1.7]	

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Terry-Dawn Hewitt

Organization: McKenna Hewitt

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Submittal Date: Mon Jul 28 16:13:21 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected

Resolution: The technical committee rejected the proposed recommendation on AI to be included for the professional qualification of fire investigators. The TC determine that a understanding of AI is not a minimum qualification for a fire investigator.



Public Comment No. 3-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.1.7 [Excluding any Sub-Sections]]

In order to successfully complete the tasks identified in the JPRs of Sections 4.2 through 4.7, the fire investigator shall remain current in the subjects listed as "requisite knowledge" as they relate to fire investigations, which include the following:

- (1) Fire science, including the following:
 - (a) Fire chemistry
 - (b) Thermodynamics
 - (c) Fire dynamics
 - (d) Explosion dynamics
- (2) Fire investigation, including the following:
 - (a) Fire analysis
 - (b) Fire investigation methodology
 - (c) Fire investigation technology
 - (d) Evidence documentation, collection, and preservation
 - (e) Failure analysis and analytical tools
- (3) Fire scene safety, including the following:
 - (a) Hazard recognition, evaluation, and basic mitigation procedures
 - (b) Hazardous materials
 - (c) Safety procedures
- (4) Building and utility systems, including the following:
 - (a) Types of construction
 - (b) Fire protection systems
 - (c) Electricity and electrical systems Omit (c); this is too broad of scope for the standard. This would include everything from production of electricity to its final use point. For example an investigator would need to be knowledgeable regarding electrical production from nuclear means, coal producing plants and all others. How electricity is safely handled in transmission, being stepped up or stepped down in power. We would be asking fire investigators to work beyond their scope of training or expertise and speculate into knowledge of electrical engineers.
 - (d) Fuel gas systems

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Omit (c); this is too broad of scope for the standard. This would include everything from production of electricity to its final use point. For example an investigator would need to be knowledgeable regarding electrical production from nuclear means, coal producing plants and all others. How electricity is safely handled in transmission, being stepped up or stepped down in power. We would be asking fire investigators to work beyond their scope of training or expertise and speculate into knowledge of electrical engineers.

Related Item

- 4.2c

Submitter Information Verification

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Submittal Date: Wed May 21 16:17:03 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected

Resolution: The technical committee identifies the electrical and electrical systems knowledge requirement outlined in annex A & D aligns with NFPA 921.



Public Comment No. 13-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.2]

4.2* Scene Examination.

Duties shall include inspecting, evaluating, and analyzing the fire scene or evidence of the scene, and conducting a comprehensive review of documentation generated during the examination(s) of the scene if the scene is no longer available, so as to determine the area or point of origin, source of ignition, material(s) ignited, and action or activity that brought the ignition source and materials together and to assess the subsequent progression, extinguishment, and containment of the fire.

4.2.1

Secure the fire ground, given marking devices, sufficient personnel, and special tools and equipment, so that unauthorized persons can recognize the perimeters of the investigative scene and are kept from restricted areas and all evidence or potential evidence is protected from damage or destruction.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Fire ground hazards, types of evidence, and the importance of fire scene security, evidence preservation, and issues relating to spoliation.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Use of marking devices.

4.2.2*

Conduct an exterior or perimeter survey, given standard equipment and tools, so that evidence is identified and preserved, fire damage is ~~interpreted and~~ analyzed, hazards are identified to avoid injuries, accessibility to the property or area is determined, and all potential means of ingress and egress are discovered.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

The types of building construction and the effects of fire on construction materials, types of evidence commonly found in the perimeter, evidence preservation methods, the effects of fire suppression, fire behavior and spread, weather, topography, fire patterns, and a basic awareness of the dangers of hazardous materials.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to assess fire ground and structural ~~condition, observe conditions, identify video/photographic recording devices, observe~~ the damage from and effects of the fire, ~~and interpret and analyze~~ and analyze fire patterns.

4.2.3

Conduct an interior survey, given standard equipment and tools, so that areas of potential evidentiary value requiring further examination ~~are identified and preserved~~ are preserved, the evidentiary value of contents is determined, and hazards are identified in order to avoid injuries.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

The types of building construction and interior finish and the effects of fire on those materials, the effects of fire suppression, fire behavior and spread, evidence preservation methods, fire patterns, effects of building contents on fire growth, the relationship of building contents to the overall investigation, weather conditions at the time of the fire, and fuel moisture.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to assess structural conditions, observe the damage and effects of the fire, discover the impact of fire suppression efforts on fire flow and heat propagation, and evaluate protected areas to determine the presence and/or absence of contents.

4.2.4

~~Interpret and analyze~~ Identify fire patterns effects, ~~given~~ given standard equipment and tools and some structural, content, vegetation, or natural material remains, so that each ~~pattern~~ is identified and analyzed with change of appearance is identified with respect to the burning characteristics of the material involved, and the stage of fire development, the effects of ventilation within the context of the scene, the relationship with all ~~patterns~~ fire effects observed, and the methods of understanding of the modes of heat transfer that led to the formation of the patterns, and the sequence in which the patterns were produced is fire effects is determined.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Fire dynamics, including stages of fire development; ~~methods of~~ modes of heat transfer; compartment fire development; the interrelationship of heat release rate (HRR), form, and ignitibility of materials; and the impact and effects of ventilation on the creation of the fire ~~patterns effects~~.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to ~~interpret and analyze the~~ recognize or measure physical changes caused by fire such as the effects of burning characteristics of the fuel involved and the effects of ventilation on different types of materials.

4.2.5

~~Interpret and analyze fire~~ Analyze fire effects to discover fire patterns, given standard equipment and tools and some structural or content remains, so that fire development, fire spread, and the sequence in which fire patterns were developed (i.e., sequential pattern analysis) are fire spread are determined; methods and effects of suppression are analyzed; fire patterns effects and effects indicating patterns indicating a hypothetical area ~~or areas of origin are recognized and tested~~ (s) are evaluated; false or refuted hypothetical areas of origin are eliminated; and all fire patterns are tested against the data, such that the area(s) of origin is correctly identified.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Fire development and spread based on fire chemistry, fire dynamics including compartment fire development, fire spread, fire suppression effects, building construction, electricity and electrical systems, and fuel gas systems.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to ~~analyze~~ interpret variations of fire ~~patterns effects~~ on different materials with consideration given to HRR, form, ignitibility of the fuels involved, and the effects of ventilation that lead to the development of fire patterns; ability to understand the impact of different types of fuel packages on pattern creation; and ability to analyze and correlate information.

4.2.6

~~Examine and remove fire~~ Examine fire debris, given standard or, if necessary, special equipment and tools, so that fire ~~patterns and effects and~~ fire effects concealed patterns concealed by debris ~~are discovered and analyzed~~ are analyzed; all debris within the potential area(s) of origin is ~~checked~~ analyzed for fire cause evidence; potential ignition source(s) is identified; and evidence is preserved without investigator-inflicted damage or contamination.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Basic understanding of ignition processes, characteristics of ignition sources, and ease of ignition of fuels; debris-layering techniques; use of tools, equipment, and special equipment during the debris search; types of fire cause evidence commonly found; understanding evidence spoliation and techniques to avoid it; and evidence collection and preservation methods and documentation.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to employ search techniques that further the discovery of fire cause evidence and ignition sources, use search techniques that incorporate documentation, and collect and preserve physical and digital evidence.

4.2.7

Reconstruct potential area(s) of origin, given standard and, if needed, special equipment and tools as well as sufficient personnel, so that all protected areas and fire patterns are ~~identified and correlated~~ examined in relation to contents or structural remains; and items potentially critical to cause determination are returned to their prefire location as a means of hypothesis testing, such that the area(s) or point(s) of origin is discovered.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

The effects of fire on different types of material and the importance and uses of reconstruction.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to examine all materials to determine the effects of fire, ~~identify and~~ distinguish among different types of fire-damaged contents, and return materials to their original position using protected areas and fire patterns.

4.2.8*

~~Inspect and analyze~~ Analyze the performance of building and utility systems, including fire protection, detection, and suppression systems, HVAC, electricity and electrical systems, fuel gas systems, and building compartmentation, given standard and special equipment and tools, so that a determination can be made as to the need for expert resources; an operating system's impact on fire growth and spread is ~~considered~~ evaluated in identifying hypothetical area(s) of origin; ~~defeated and failed~~ conditions of systems are identified; and the system's potential as a fire cause is ~~recognized~~ analyzed.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Different types of fire protection, detection, suppression, HVAC, electricity and electrical systems, fuel gas systems, and building compartmentation such as fire walls and fire doors; types of expert resources for building systems; the impact of fire on various systems; common methods used to defeat a system's functional capability; and types of failures.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to determine the system's operation and its effect on the fire; identify alterations to, and failure indicators of, building systems; and evaluate the impact of suppression efforts on building systems.

4.2.9

Discriminate the effects of explosions from other types of damage, given standard equipment and tools, so that an explosion is identified and its evidence is preserved.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Different types of explosions and their causes, characteristics of an explosion, and the difference between low- and high-order explosions.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to identify explosive effects on glass, walls, foundations, and other building materials; distinguish between low- and high-order explosion effects; and analyze damage to document the blast zone and origin.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Our task group was asked to review and revise each JPR to include only one action verb, making them more concise and specific about what the JPR establishes. We were also asked to evaluate whether each JPR remained relevant to the latest editions of 1033, 921, and 1321. We completed the changes to the action verbs and ensured consistency with NFPA 921 in the use of the terms fire effects and fire patterns within the JPRs.

Related Item

• 11 • 4

• 16 • 10

Submitter Information Verification**Submitter Full Name:** Gregory Gorbett**Organization:** Eastern Kentucky University**Affiliation:** NFPA 1033 TC-task group**Street Address:****City:****State:****Zip:****Submittal Date:** Sat Jul 26 07:15:55 EDT 2025**Committee:** PQU-FIV**Committee Statement****Committee Action:** Rejected but see related SR**Resolution:** [SR-11-NFPA 1033-2025](#)

Statement: The technical committee reviewed the JPR to verify only one action verb, making it more concise and specific about what the JPR establishes. The technical committee also evaluated the JPR in its relevancy to the latest editions of NFPA 921, and NFPA 1321 and ensured consistency with NFPA 921 in the use of the terms used. Changes are proposed in response to a committee input posted at the first draft stage.



Public Comment No. 19-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.3]

4.3 Documenting the Scene.

Duties shall include diagramming the scene, photographing, and taking field notes to be used to document scene findings, or to prepare a written report.

4.3.1

Diagram the scene, given standard tools and equipment, so that the scene is accurately represented and evidence, pertinent contents, significant patterns, and area(s) or point(s) of origin are identified.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Commonly used symbols and legends that clarify the diagram, types of evidence, areas of mass loss, and patterns that need to be documented, and formats for diagramming the scene.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to sketch the scene, basic drafting skills, and evidence recognition and observational skills.

4.3.2*

Photographically document the scene, given standard tools and equipment, so that the scene ~~is accurately depicted~~ is depicted exactly as found and the photographs support scene findings.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Working knowledge of high-resolution camera and flash, other digital recording technologies, the types of film, media, and flash available, and the strengths and limitations of each.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to use a high-resolution camera, flash, other digital recording technologies, and accessories.

4.3.3*

Construct investigative notes, given a fire scene, available documents (e.g., prefire plans and inspection reports), and interview information, so that the notes are ~~accurate, provide further documentation~~ a reflection of the scene, findings, and represent complete ~~provide further documentation of the scene findings~~.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Relationship between notes, diagrams, and photos; how to reduce scene information into concise notes; and the use of notes during report writing and legal proceedings.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Data-reduction skills, note-taking skills, and observational and correlating skills.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

The TC task group was asked to review and revise each JPR to include only one action verb, making them more concise and specific about what the JPR establishes. The TG was also asked to evaluate whether each JPR remained relevant to the latest editions of 1033, 921, and 1321. The proposed changes were completed, including adjustments to the action verbs and ensuring consistency with NFPA 921.

Related Item

• 44

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Gregory Gorbett

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Affiliation: On behalf of the TC task group

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Submittal Date: Mon Jul 28 13:26:50 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected

Resolution: The TC determined that current text is adequate.



Public Comment No. 17-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.4.1]

4.4.1 2

Utilize proper procedures for ~~managing~~ collecting evidence from victims and fatalities, given a protocol and appropriate personnel, so that all evidence is discovered and preserved and the protocol procedures are followed.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Types of evidence associated with fire victims and fatalities and evidence preservation methods.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Observational skills and the ability to apply protocols to given situations.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Current section 4.4.1 should be moved to 4.4.2, a more general discussion of evidence should come first. This section deals with evidence and not the management of victims, the proposed language clarifies the statement.

Related Item

- 1033 Pro Qual recommendations

Submitter Information Verification

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Submittal Date: Sun Jul 27 17:59:08 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected but see related SR

Resolution: [SR-31-NFPA 1033-2025](#)

Statement: The technical committee identified that the current section 4.4.1 should be moved to 4.4.2, a more general discussion of evidence should come first. This section deals with evidence and not the management of victims, the proposed language clarifies the statement. Change to requisite skills align with style for professional qualification standards.



Public Comment No. 15-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.4.2]

4.4.2 1 *

~~Locate, document, collect, label, package, and store~~ Collect evidence, given standard or special tools and equipment and evidence collection materials, so that evidence is properly identified, preserved, collected, packaged, and stored for use in testing, legal, or other proceedings and examinations; ensuring cross-contamination and investigator-inflicted damage to evidentiary items are avoided; and the chain of custody is established.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Types of evidence, authority requirements, and impact of removing evidentiary items on civil or criminal proceedings (exclusionary or fire-cause supportive evidence); types, capabilities, and limitations of standard and special tools used to locate evidence; types of laboratory tests available; packaging techniques and materials; tools, techniques, and procedures for preserving digital evidence; and the impact of evidence collection on the investigation.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to recognize different types of evidence and determine whether evidence is critical to the investigation.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

This section should also be moved to 4.4.1 as it is the most general discussion of evidence and current section 4.4.1 should be moved to 4.4.2. There are too many verbs in the statement, changing the language to "collect" simplifies the statement but still covers all of the previous verbs used.

Related Item

- 1033 Pro Qual recommendations

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Kathryn Smith

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Submittal Date: Sun Jul 27 17:55:21 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Accepted

Resolution: SR-3-NFPA 1033-2025

Statement: The TC recognized that this section should also be moved to 4.4.1 as it is the most general discussion of evidence and current section 4.4.1 should be moved to 4.4.2.

There are too many verbs in the statement, changing the language to "collect" simplifies the statement but still covers all of the previous verbs used.



Public Comment No. 20-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.5]

4.5 Interview.

Duties shall include ~~obtaining information regarding the overall fire investigation from others through verbal communication~~ developing an interview plan, conducting interviews, and evaluating interview information.

4.5.1

Develop an interview plan, given no special tools or equipment, so that the plan reflects a strategy to further determine the fire cause and affix responsibility and includes a relevant questioning strategy for each individual to be interviewed that promotes the efficient use of the investigator's time.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Persons who can provide information that furthers the fire cause determination or the affixing of responsibility, types of questions that are pertinent and efficient to ask of different information sources (first responders, neighbors, witnesses, suspects, and so forth), and pros and cons of interviews versus document gathering.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Planning skills, development of focused questions for specific individuals, and evaluation of existing file data to help develop questions and fill investigative gaps.

4.5.2

Conduct interviews, given incident information, so that pertinent information is obtained, follow-up questions are asked, responses to all questions are elicited, and the response to each question is documented accurately.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Types of interviews, personal information needed for proper documentation or follow-up, documenting methods and tools, and types of nonverbal communications and their meaning.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to adjust interviewing strategies based on deductive reasoning, interpret and analyze verbal and nonverbal communications, apply appropriate legal requirements, and exhibit strong listening skills.

4.5.3

Evaluate interview information, given interview transcripts or notes and incident data, so that all interview data is individually analyzed and correlated with all other interviews, corroborative and conflictive information is documented, and new leads are developed.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Types of interviews, report evaluation methods, and data correlation methods.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Data correlation skills and the ability to evaluate source information (e.g., first responders and other witnesses).

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

The TC task group was asked to review and revise each JPR to include only one action verb, making them more concise and specific about what the JPR establishes. The TG was also asked to evaluate whether each JPR remained relevant to the latest editions of 1033, 921, and 1321. The proposed

changes were completed, including adjustments to the action verbs and ensuring consistency with NFPA 921.

Related Item

- 48

Submitter Information Verification

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Submittal Date: Mon Jul 28 13:34:31 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected but see related SR

Resolution: [SR-25-NFPA 1033-2025](#)

Statement: The technical committee aligned the definition of the duty to the tasks associated with interviewing.



Public Comment No. 21-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.6]

4.6 Post-Incident Investigation.

Duties shall include ~~the investigation of all factors beyond the fire scene at the time of the origin and cause determination; gathering reports and records, evaluating the investigative file, coordinating expert resources, and establishing evidence as to motive and/or opportunity.~~

4.6.1

Gather reports and records, given no special tools, equipment, or materials, so that all gathered documents are applicable to the investigation, complete, and authentic; the chain of custody is maintained; and the material is admissible in a legal proceeding.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Types of reports needed that facilitate determining responsibility for the fire (e.g., police reports, fire reports, insurance ~~policies~~ claim file information, financial records, deeds, private investigator reports, outside photos, and videos) and location of these reports.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to identify the reports and documents necessary for the investigation, implement the chain of custody, and organizational skills.

4.6.2

Evaluate the investigative file, given all available file information, so that areas for further investigation are identified, the relationship between gathered documents and information is interpreted, and corroborative evidence and information discrepancies are discovered.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

File assessment and/or evaluation methods, including accurate documentation practices, and requisite investigative elements.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Information assessment, correlation, and organizational skills.

4.6.3

Coordinate expert resources, given the investigative file, reports, and documents, so that the expert's competencies are matched to the specific investigation needs, financial expenditures are justified, and utilization clearly furthers the investigative goals of determining cause or affixing responsibility.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

How to assess one's own expertise, qualification to be called for expert testimony, types of expert resources (e.g., forensic, CPA, polygraph, financial, human behavior disorders, and engineering), and methods to identify expert resources.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Ability to apply expert resources to further the investigation by networking with other investigators to identify experts, questioning experts relative to their qualifications, and developing a utilization plan for use of expert resources.

4.6.4

Establish evidence as to motive and/or opportunity, given an incendiary fire, so that the evidence is supported by documentation and meets the evidentiary requirements of the jurisdiction.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Types of motives common to incendiary fires, methods used to discover opportunity, and human behavioral patterns relative to fire-setting.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Financial analysis, records gathering and analysis, interviewing, and interpreting and analyzing fire scene information and evidence for relationship to motive and/or opportunity.

4.6.5*

Formulate an opinion concerning origin, cause, or responsibility for the fire, given all investigative findings, so that the opinion regarding origin, cause, or responsibility for a fire is supported by the data, facts, records, reports, documents, scientific references, and evidence.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Analytical methods and procedures (e.g., hypothesis development and testing, systems analysis, timelines, link analysis, fault tree analysis, ~~and~~ data reduction matrixing, and utilizing scientific reference materials).

(B) Requisite Skills.

Analytical and assimilation skills.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

The TC task group was asked to review and revise each JPR to include only one action verb, making them more concise and specific about what the JPR establishes. The TG was also asked to evaluate whether each JPR remained relevant to the latest editions of 1033, 921, and 1321. The proposed changes were completed, including adjustments to the action verbs and ensuring consistency with NFPA 921.

Related Item

- 45

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Gregory Gorbett

Organization: Eastern Kentucky University

Affiliation: On behalf of the TC task group

Street Address:

City:

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Zip:

Submission Date: Mon Jul 28 13:37:06 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected but see related SR

Resolution: [SR-6-NFPA 1033-2025](#)

Statement: The technical committee revised the definition of the duty on post-incident investigation to align with the associated tasks.



Public Comment No. 25-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.6.5(A)]

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Analytical methods and procedures (e.g., hypothesis development and testing, systems analysis, timelines, link analysis, fault tree analysis, ~~and~~ data reduction matrixing, and AI tools in fire investigation).

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Generative AI is available for use in fire investigations and at a minimum, investigators should know how it can be used in formulating opinions and when it is appropriate to disclose their use of AI.

Related Public Comments for This Document

Related Comment

Public Comment No. 23-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.1.7 [Excluding any Sub-Sections]]

Relationship

PC 23 adds AI as a topic for required requisite knowledge.

Related Item

- Public Input No. 43-NFPA 1033-2024 [New Section after 4.1.7]

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Terry-Dawn Hewitt

Organization: McKenna Hewitt

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Submittal Date: Mon Jul 28 16:24:27 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected

Resolution: same sub as PC-23



Public Comment No. 22-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.7]

4.7 Presentations.

Duties shall include the preparation and presentation of findings to those individuals not involved in the actual investigations.

4.7.1*

Prepare a written report, given investigative findings, so that the report accurately reflects the facts, data, and scientific principles on which the investigator relied; clearly identifies the hypotheses formed and analyzed; clearly identifies and expresses the investigator's opinions and conclusions; and contains the basis, evidence, and reasoning by which each opinion or conclusion was reached in order to meet the requirements of the intended audience(s).

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Elements of writing, typical components of a written report, ~~and~~ types of audiences and their respective needs or requirements, and scientific principles.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Writing skills, ability to analyze information, and determine the reader's needs or requirements.

4.7.2

Express investigative findings verbally, given investigative findings, notes, a time allotment, and a specific audience, so that the information is accurate, the presentation is completed within the allotted time, and the presentation includes only need-to-know information for the intended audience.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Types of investigative findings, the informational needs of various types of audiences, and the impact of releasing information.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Communication skills and ability to determine audience needs and correlate findings.

4.7.3*

Testify during legal proceedings, given investigative findings, so that the testimony accurately reflects the facts, data, and scientific principles on which the investigator relied; clearly identifies and expresses the investigator's opinions and conclusions; and contains the reasoning by which each opinion or conclusion was reached.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Types of investigative findings, types of legal proceedings, professional demeanor requirements, and an understanding of due process and legal proceedings.

(B) Requisite Skills.

Communication and listening skills and ability to differentiate facts from opinion and determine accepted procedures, practices, and etiquette during legal proceedings.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

The TC task group was asked to review and revise each JPR to include only one action verb, making them more concise and specific about what the JPR establishes. The TG was also asked to evaluate whether each JPR remained relevant to the latest editions of 1033, 921, and 1321. The proposed changes were completed, including adjustments to the action verbs and ensuring consistency with NFPA 921.

Related Item

- 19

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Gregory Gorbett

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Street Address:

City:

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Submittal Date: Mon Jul 28 13:40:34 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected but see related SR

Resolution: [SR-5-NFPA 1033-2025](#)

Statement: The technical committee revised the definition of the duty to reflect the actual tasks to be evaluated. The technical committee recognizes that NFPA 921, sections 4.5 and 16.5 respecting expert testimony should be addressed in 4.7.3.



Public Comment No. 26-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.7.1(A)]

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Elements of writing, typical components of a written report, the appropriate and ethical use of AI in the preparation of written reports, and types of audiences and their respective needs or requirements.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Generative AI can be used in preparing reports and investigators should have a basic level of knowledge on how AI can be used for this purpose, and when the investigator should disclose and document such use.

Related Public Comments for This Document

Related Comment

Public Comment No. 23-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.1.7 [Excluding any Sub-Sections]]

Relationship

PC 23 proposes adding Generative AI to required requisite knowledge

Related Item

- Public Input No. 43-NFPA 1033-2024 [New Section after 4.1.7]

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Terry-Dawn Hewitt

Organization: McKenna Hewitt

Street Address:

City:

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Submittal Date: Mon Jul 28 16:29:22 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected

Resolution: The TC determined that AI needs to be addressed in NFPA 921 and for the courts to weigh in before addressing it in the professional qualification standard.



Public Comment No. 27-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. 4.7.3]

4.7.3*

Testify during legal proceedings, given investigative findings, so that the testimony accurately reflects the facts, data, and scientific principles on which the investigator relied; clearly identifies and expresses the investigator's opinions and conclusions; and contains the reasoning by which each opinion or conclusion was reached.

(A) Requisite Knowledge.

Types of investigative findings, types of legal proceedings, professional demeanor requirements, ~~and~~ an understanding of due process and legal proceedings, and how to be transparent in expressing levels or certainty of confidence in opinions .

(B) Requisite Skills.

Communication and listening skills and ability to differentiate facts from opinion and determine accepted procedures, practices, and etiquette during legal proceedings; knowing how to express expert opinions, including detailing the application of the scientific method and alternate hypotheses, making opinions transparent by communicating areas of uncertainties, possible sources of cognitive bias, and steps taken to mitigate risks of bias .

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

These proposed revisions reflect important changes in NFPA 921, sections 4.5 and 16.5 respecting expert testimony.

Related Item

- Public Input No. 48-NFPA 1033-2024 [Section No. 4.7.3]

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Terry-Dawn Hewitt

Organization: McKenna Hewitt

Street Address:

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Submittal Date: Mon Jul 28 16:38:54 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected but see related SR

Resolution: SR-5-NFPA 1033-2025

Statement: The technical committee revised the definition of the duty to reflect the actual tasks to be evaluated. The technical committee recognizes that NFPA 921, sections 4.5 and 16.5 respecting expert testimony should be addressed in 4.7.3.



Public Comment No. 2-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. D.1.4]

D.1.4 Building and Utility Systems.

The term *building and utility systems* as used in this standard refers to a group of interrelated subjects listed in D.1.4(1) through D.1.4(4):

(1) *Types of construction*, as follows:

- (a) Recognizing different classifications of building construction
- (b) How features of the building will influence fire growth and spread

(2) *Fire protection systems*, as follows:

- (a) Passive and active fire protection and how they influence fire dynamics
- (b) Ability to recognize and collect data available from fire protection systems
- (c) Ability to avoid spoliation in examining and documenting the systems and prevent the loss of volatile data
- (d) Differences between initiating and notification devices
- (e) Smoke management systems
- (f) Ability to document systems and their activation
- (g) Ability to identify when systems perform or fail to perform their intended functions
- (h) In cases of failures, knowledge of what steps to take to understand the cause of the failure or reach out to a subject matter expert
- (i) Recognize whether examination, analysis, and documentation of fire protection systems requires the assistance of a fire protection professional

(3) *Electricity and electrical systems*, as follows:

- (a) DELETE THIS REQUIREMENT. This is specialized knowledge above and beyond that which would be needed to be able to successfully investigate the vast majority of fires. Knowledge of this is highly specialized and is possessed by SMEs who are have a deeper understanding of design and the specifics of the various component of an electrical distribution system. Function and components of electrical transmission and distribution systems
- (b) Design, function, and components of residential electrical systems
- (c) Ability to determine whether the electrical system was energized at the time of the fire
- (d) Ability to determine whether the electrical system played a part in the initiation or spread of a fire, which includes the ability to distinguish electrical damage from environmental damage
- (e) Ability to decide when it is necessary to call in someone with more advanced electrical knowledge
- (f) Ability to conduct and interpret an arc survey
- (g) Ability to describe and identify how electrical energy can cause heating, which can be the ignition source of the fire (e.g., high-resistance heating, arcing through char, overloading)

(4) *Fuel gas systems*, as follows:

- (a) Design and components of a gas system
- (b) Differences between propane gas and natural gas
- (c) Ability to document the gas source and its distribution to the appliances
- (d) Ability to document the combustion air supply and flue gas exhaust
- (e) Operation of residential gas appliances
- (f) Distribution system of gas to the structure
- (g) Ability to determine the source of the fugitive fuel gas

D.1.4.1

Information regarding the subjects in D.1.4 can be found in the following resources:

- (1) *Types of construction* — NFPA 921 and NFPA 220
- (2) *Fire protection systems* — Chapter 8 of NFPA 921
- (3) *Electricity and electrical systems* — Chapters 9 and 18 of NFPA 921 (This information is taught in community college courses and in electrician apprenticeships.)

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

DELETE THIS REQUIREMENT. This is specialized knowledge above and beyond that which would be needed to be able to successfully investigate the vast majority of fires. Knowledge of this is highly specialized and is possessed by SMEs who are have a deeper understanding of design and the specifics of the various component of an electrical distribution system.

Related Item

- Electrical Distribution Systems

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: H Peter Loeblich

Organization: Travelers Insurance

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Submittal Date: Wed May 21 15:35:00 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Action: Rejected

Resolution: The TC recognizes that a fire investigator needs to have a general understanding of electrical distribution systems.



Public Comment No. 1-NFPA 1033-2025 [Section No. D.1.4 [Excluding any Sub-Sections]]

The term *building and utility systems* as used in this standard refers to a group of interrelated subjects listed in D.1.4(1) through D.1.4(4):

- (1) *Types of construction*, as follows:
 - (a) Recognizing different classifications of building construction
 - (b) How features of the building will influence fire growth and spread
- (2) *Fire protection systems*, as follows:
 - (a) Passive and active fire protection and how they influence fire dynamics
 - (b) Ability to recognize and collect data available from fire protection systems
 - (c) Ability to avoid spoliation in examining and documenting the systems and prevent the loss of volatile data
 - (d) Differences between initiating and notification devices
 - (e) Smoke management systems
 - (f) Ability to document systems and their activation
 - (g) Ability to identify when systems perform or fail to perform their intended functions
 - (h) In cases of failures, knowledge of what steps to take to understand the cause of the failure or reach out to a subject matter expert
 - (i) Recognize whether examination, analysis, and documentation of fire protection systems requires the assistance of a fire protection professional
- (3) *Electricity and electrical systems*, as follows:
- ~~(4) Function and components of electrical transmission and distribution systems~~
- (1) Design, function, and components of residential electrical systems
- (2) Ability to determine whether the electrical system was energized at the time of the fire
- (3) Ability to determine whether the electrical system played a part in the initiation or spread of a fire, which includes the ability to distinguish electrical damage from environmental damage
- (4) Ability to decide when it is necessary to call in someone with more advanced electrical knowledge
- (5) Ability to conduct and interpret an arc survey
- (6) Ability to describe and identify how electrical energy can cause heating, which can be the ignition source of the fire (e.g., high-resistance heating, arcing through char, overloading)
- (7) *Fuel gas systems*, as follows:
 - (a) Design and components of a gas system
 - (b) Differences between propane gas and natural gas
 - (c) Ability to document the gas source and its distribution to the appliances
 - (d) Ability to document the combustion air supply and flue gas exhaust
 - (e) Operation of residential gas appliances
 - (f) Distribution system of gas to the structure
 - (g) Ability to determine the source of the fugitive fuel gas

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Electrical transmission and distribution systems are beyond the scope of fire investigation. This falls within the duties of electrical engineers

Related Item

- IAAI-CFI

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Terry Decker

Organization: TDI

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City:

State:

Zip:

Submittal Date: Mon May 19 18:46:01 EDT 2025

Committee: PQU-FIV

Committee Statement

Committee Rejected

Action:

Resolution: The TC recognizes that a fire investigator needs to have a general understanding of electrical distribution systems.