

# **RECOMMENDED TRAINING STANDARDS FOR THE KANSAS FIRE SERVICE**

Prepared by the

**Kansas Fire Resources Service Working Group**  
(Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response)

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## **Recommended Training Standards for the Kansas Fire Service**

### *Overview*

This document was created by the Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR), Kansas Fire Service Resources Working Group (hereafter referred to as Working Group). The CEPR formed the Working Group to address issues specific to the Kansas Fire Service. As it relates to this document, the specific charge given the Working Group was to:

- Develop and maintain a list of deployable fire service resources.
- Develop and promote minimum training standards for the Kansas fire service.

Although the Kansas Fire Resources Working group was task with developing and maintaining a list of deployable resources, the CEPR through KDEM provides the tool for maintaining the most current list of resources through voluntary commitment on their web based CRCMS. For that reason, the working group focused on the second bullet, suggesting the following tiered standards for deployment of Intrastate resources.

It should be noted that until further action by the CEPR and/or the Kansas legislature, the contents of this document are recommendations and do not carry the force of law. As submitted to the CEPR, the contents of this document are recommendations.

### *Relationship between Deployment of personnel/equipment and Training Standards*

In an earlier report to the CEPR, the Working Group addressed mutual aid, intrastate and interstate deployments and what qualifications should be met in order to deploy through the local, intrastate and interstate systems.

In a nutshell, that document suggested that Kansas requirements should not limit or restrict Mutual Aid agreements between individual fire departments or regional associations. The Working Group did suggest that for deployments managed (or requested from the state via the ESF4 process) that firefighters and fire departments meet certain training requirements as identified in this document. Interstate deployment through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC system) would require verification of training levels to the standards identified by the request.

A perhaps overly simplistic explanation of this process says that for Mutual Aid (between departments) there are no training or equipment requirements. Intrastate deployment requires training as stated in the white boxes on page 4 (minimum). Interstate deployments require processes outside the scope of this document.

The Working Group suggestion would be for fire departments to train to the “Preferred” levels of training identified within this document. The “Preferred” and “Optimal” levels will help insure qualifications necessary to deploy throughout the state.

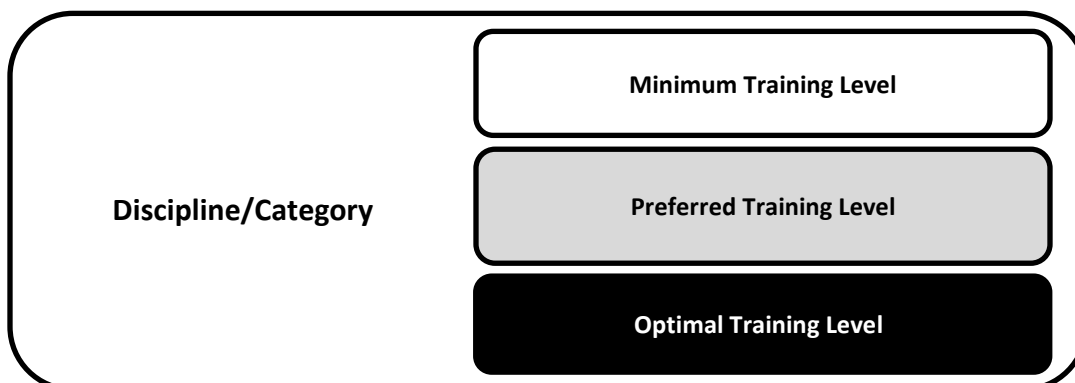
**Glossary of Terms used in this document**

Certification:	For the purposes of this document, “ <i>Certification</i> ” and “ <i>National Certification</i> ” have the same meaning.
Credential:	As used in this document, a credential is defined as an Identification Credentialing Card (IDCC) issued by an entity authorized as per the Kansas Division of Emergency Management Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System showing applicable qualifications.
Discipline/Category:	The role/job type assigned to individuals (e.g. Firefighter, Driver, etc.).
Grassland Training:	As used in this document, Grassland Firefighter Training defines a specific course focusing on the knowledge, skills and abilities required for fighting grassland fires in Kansas (and other plains states). This training is not intended to meet the requirements of the NWCG “Wildland” firefighting course. To avoid confusion, the term “Wildland” is only used in reference to NWCG training and applications. When used, the term “Grasslands” is used only in reference to Grasslands training as defined above.
Interstate Deployment:	Meet training requirement of the requesting state or federal agency.
Intrastate Deployable:	Meets training required for intrastate (ESF4) deployment.
Minimum Training Level:	Minimum level of recognized training required for intrastate deployment.
Mutual Aid:	Assistance from one fire department to another established through agreements between two or more fire departments. Mutual aid is a local function that is controlled locally. Mutual Aid is NOT “deployment” through, intrastate and interstate response systems.
National Certification:	Certification awarded (issued) by an organization accredited by a third party. For the purposes of this document, accreditation from the NPQS or IFSAC for Fire Fighter, Driver/Operator and Fire Officer is required. For Wildland “Red Card” certification an approved provider of NWCG certification (e.g. Kansas Forest Service) is required.
NFPA Equivalent Training:	Training equal to NFPA standard, but <u>NOT</u> verified by independent testing or by national certification.
Optimal Training Level:	Level of training typically required for interstate deployment.
Preferred Training Level:	This level of training is considered the training level for firefighters to achieve a proficient response and help ensure the best firefighter safety.
Training:	A program of dedicated knowledge and skills training taught by a competent instructor using a specific approved/recognized curriculum (lesson plan).

Explanation for chart on the following page

- **Discipline/Category:** Identification of the fire service discipline. Fire departments should provide/require training to prepare firefighters to function within each discipline that applies to the level of performance expected of those firefighters during operations. Much like the recognized Hazardous Materials training requirements, “train to the level of response/responsibility/operations.”
- **White Box: “Minimum Training Level.”** This box identifies the minimum training level that should be required for firefighters prior to responding on intrastate deployments related to the Discipline (Grassland Firefighter, Grassland Driver/Operator, Structural Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Operator, Fire Officer). As the name implies, this level should be considered the absolute minimum level of training. It should be recognized that minimum training does not prepare responders for all conditions that can be expected to arise during response. A higher level of training and preparation is preferred.
- **Grey Box: “Preferred Training Level.”** This level of training is considered the training level for firefighters to achieve a proficient response and help ensure the best firefighter safety.
- **Black Box: “Optimal Training Level.”** This level of training provides the best assurance that firefighters meet nationally recognized training standards and documents their performance through nationally accredited/recognized certification.

**Legend for Chart on Page 4 (next page)**



**TRAINING CATEGORIES AND RECOMMENDED TRAINING LEVELS WITHIN EACH CATEGORY**

<i>Discipline/Category</i>	<i>Levels of Recognized Training</i>
<b>Grassland Firefighter</b>	<b>Kansas Grassland Firefighter Training (Minimum)</b>
	<b>NWCG Red Card equivalent Wildland Training (Preferred)</b>
	<b>NWCG Wildland Red Card Certification (Optimal)</b>
<b>Structural Firefighter</b>	<b>Fire Fighter I Training - NFPA 1001 equivalent (Minimum)</b>
	<b>Fire Fighter II Training NFPA 1001 equivalent (Preferred)</b>
	<b>Fire Fighter I &amp; II National Certification – NFPA 1001 (Optimal)</b>
<b>Fire Apparatus Operator</b>  <i>* (Departments operating Aerial Apparatus should include Aerial training and certification as applicable)</i>	<b>Basic Grassland Apparatus Driver/Operator Training (Minimum)</b> <i>(Driver training must match the level of firefighter training)</i>
	<i>or</i>
	<b>Driver/Operator: Pumper (&amp; Aerial*) Training (NFPA 1002 equivalent) (Preferred)</b>
	<b>Driver/Operator Pumper &amp; Aerial Certification (Optimal)</b>
<b>Fire Officer</b>	<b>Fire Officer 1 Training -NFPA 1021 equivalent (Minimum)</b>
	<b>Fire Officer 2 Training - NFPA 1021 equivalent Hazardous Materials Incident Command Training (Preferred)</b>
	<b>Fire Officer 1 &amp; 2 National Certification – NFPA 1021 Hazardous Materials Incident Command Training (Optimal)</b>

**Grasslands Firefighter Training Levels**

<b><i>Discipline/Category</i></b>	<b><i>Description of Tasks Performed</i></b>
Grasslands Firefighter	<p>Firefighters trained to these levels respond to grasslands fires for the purposes of containment and/or extinguishment. These personnel typically operate from a grasslands firefighting vehicle with NFPA 1977 compliant Wildland Protective Clothing.</p> <p><i>Personnel driving/operating Grasslands apparatus must meet minimum training and licensing requirements of Grasslands Driver/Operators listed under the Driver/Operator Training Levels section.</i></p>

<b><i>Requirement</i></b>	<b><i>Explanation of Requirement</i></b>
Prerequisite	None
Minimum Training	<p>NIMS 700, 100</p> <p>Kansas Grasslands Firefighting course. <i>(This course teaches the basic techniques of fighting grassland fires. This course does not replace NWCG Red Card training or certification. This is an entry level course that consists of approximately 8 hours of basic/introductory training. This course DOES NOT teach forestry firefighting.)</i></p>
Preferred Training	<p>NIMS 700, 100, 200</p> <p>NWCG Red Card equivalent course (training).</p>
Optimal Training	<p>NIMS 700, 100, 200</p> <p>NWCG Red Card Training and Certification.</p>
Physical	Meets physical/medical requirements of NFPA 1001 standard. The requirements in NFPA 1582 standard are strongly suggested.
License	None required for Grasslands Firefighter <i>(see Driver/Operator section for qualifications/training required to drive Grassland apparatus.)</i>
Required Credential	Responder must be issued an Identification Credentialing Card (IDCC) listing this qualification, by an entity authorized as per the KDEM Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System.

**Structural Firefighter Training Levels**

<b><i>Discipline/Category</i></b>	<b><i>Description of Tasks Performed</i></b>
Structural Firefighter	Firefighters trained to this level respond to structural fires for the purposes of containment and/or extinguishment. These personnel operate with NFPA compliant structural firefighting Protective Clothing and fire department apparatus.

<b><i>Requirement</i></b>	<b><i>Explanation of Requirement</i></b>
Prerequisite	None
Minimum Training	NIMS 700, 100  Fire Fighter I equivalent training meeting the requirements of NFPA 1001, Level 1.
Preferred Training	NIMS 700, 100, 200  Fire Fighter II equivalent training meeting the requirements of NFPA 1001, Level II.
Optimal Training	NIMS 700, 100, 200  Fire Fighter I & II National Certification to NFPA 1001. This level of training requires National Certification by an accredited program.
Physical	Meets physical/medical requirements of NFPA 1001 standard. The requirements in NFPA 1582 standard are strongly suggested.
License	None required
Required Credential	Responder must be issued an Identification Credentialing Card (IDCC) listing this qualification, by an entity authorized as per the KDEM Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System.

**Driver/Operator (Grassland) Training Levels**

<b><i>Discipline/Category</i></b>	<b><i>Description of Tasks Performed</i></b>
Grassland Driver/Operator	<p>Firefighters trained/qualified to this level serve as the person in charge of a grassland firefighting vehicle and drive/operate the vehicle.</p> <p><i>These persons must be knowledgeable (and skilled) in the operation of the vehicle including drafting from a static source, operation of all equipment carried on the vehicle, driving and maneuvering the vehicle in highway and off-road use, and all knowledge and skills contained in the Kansas Grassland Firefighting course.</i></p>
<b><i>Requirement</i></b>	<b><i>Explanation of Requirement</i></b>
Prerequisite	Meet minimum training requirements for Grassland Firefighter.
Minimum Training	<p>Training meeting the requirements of the Kansas Grasslands Firefighting course in Optional lesson #1 – Grasslands Driver/Operator.</p> <p><i>This lesson of the Kansas Grasslands Firefighting course teaches driving Grassland apparatus on road surfaces and in off-road applications. The lesson also incorporates operations of grassland apparatus (pumping, drafting, etc.) and limitations, capabilities and appropriate uses of these apparatus (including exposure protection). This training is <b>NOT</b> intended to meet the NWCG requirements for “Red Card” or NWCG requirements for Wildland engine operations.</i></p>
Preferred Training	<p>NIMS 700, 100, 200,</p> <p>NWCG Wildland Engine Boss equivalent training.</p>
Optimal Training	<p>NIMS 700, 100, 200, 300</p> <p>NWCG Engine Boss qualification.</p>
Physical	Meets physical/medical requirements of NFPA 1001 standard. The requirements in NFPA 1582 standard are strongly suggested.
License	Valid Driver’s License (as required by Kansas Department of Revenue).
Required Credential	Responder must be issued an Identification Credentialing Card (IDCC) listing this qualification, by an entity authorized as per the KDEM Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System.



**Driver/Operator (Structural) Training Levels**

<b><i>Discipline/Category</i></b>	<b><i>Description of Tasks Performed</i></b>
Driver/Operator	Firefighters trained to these levels drive and operate fire department apparatus (Pumpers and Aerial apparatus).
<b><i>Requirement</i></b>	<b><i>Explanation of Requirement</i></b>
Prerequisite	Meet minimum training requirements for Structural Firefighter.
Minimum Training	NIMS 700, 100  Driver/Operator Pumper/Aerial training equivalent to NFPA 1002 Standard.  <i>(If fire department operates Aerial Apparatus, this training requirement includes Aerial Apparatus training.)</i>
Preferred Training	NIMS 700, 100, 200,  Driver/Operator Pumper/Aerial training equivalent to NFPA 1002 standard. <i>(Aerial training and certification if the fire department operates Aerial Apparatus).</i>
Optimal Training	NIMS 700, 100, 200, 300  Driver/Operator Pumper/Aerial National Certification <i>(Aerial training and certification required if the fire department operates Aerial Apparatus).</i>
Physical	Meets physical/medical requirements of NFPA 1001 standard. The requirements in NFPA 1582 standard are strongly suggested.
License	Valid Driver's License (as required by Kansas Department of Revenue).
Required Credential	Responder must be issued an Identification Credentialing Card (IDCC) listing this qualification, by an entity authorized as per the KDEM Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System.

**Fire Officer Training Levels**

<b><i>Discipline/Category</i></b>	<b><i>Description of Tasks Performed</i></b>
Fire Officer	Firefighters trained to these levels operate as the supervisors of fire department operations ranging from single to multiple unit operations. Typical assignments range from tactical assignments for single units to those of the Incident Commander.

<b><i>Requirement</i></b>	<b><i>Explanation of Requirement</i></b>
Prerequisite	Shall meet the appropriate level of firefighter training matching the type of response.
Minimum Training	NIMS 700, 100, 200, 300  Fire Officer I training meeting NFPA 1021.
Preferred Training	NIMS 700, 100, 200, 300  Fire Officer I equivalent training meeting NFPA 1021, Level I.  Hazardous Materials Incident Commander training meeting NFPA 472 Standard.
Optimal Training	NIMS 700, 100, 200, 300, 400 plus any mission or task specific courses for advanced NIMS functions to be performed.  Fire Officer II equivalent training meeting NFPA 2021, Level II.  Hazardous Materials Incident Commander training meeting NFPA 472 Standard.
Physical	Meets physical/medical requirements of NFPA 1001 standard. The requirements in NFPA 1582 standard are strongly suggested.
License	None required
Required Credential	Responder must be issued an Identification Credentialing Card (IDCC) listing this qualification, by an entity authorized as per the KDEM Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System.