

National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Washington, DC 20594



RRD23MR005

Emergency Response Factual-Addendum Report

State of Ohio Emergency Response Training- Addendum Report

September 20, 2023



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A. ACCIDENT

Accident: Train derailment with hazardous Materials
Location: East Palestine, Ohio
Date: February 03, 2023
Time: 8:54 p.m. local time
Railroad: Norfolk Southern Railway
Train: Norfolk Southern Train No. 32NB101
Line: Fort Wayne Line
Track No.: Main Track 1

B. SUMMARY

For a summary of this accident, refer to the *Accident Synopsis* report within this docket, RRD23MR005.

1.0 State of Ohio: Volunteer Fire Department Training

A State of Ohio Volunteer Firefighter certification is the minimum level of certification required to provide firefighting services in the State of Ohio. The certification is a stand-alone certificate specific to the State of Ohio which does not meet the minimum training standard for “Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications” established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 as a qualifying level of public safety responder for trained firefighters.

The volunteer training course is a 36 hour awareness level and support level course. The course is designed to introduce the student to the basic elements of fire ground safety and support operations, and to provide the student with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to assist in firefighting support operations with a fire department. The certification must be renewed every three years, with fifty-four (54) hours of continuing education required during each three year cycle.

Per the State of Ohio’s Fire Department Certificates to Practice: As an awareness-level course, the Ohio Volunteer Firefighter Course is intended to be a foundation upon which firefighters can begin to build their training portfolio. Due to the 36-hour time constraint as set forth in section 4765.55 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Volunteer Firefighter course limits exposures to hazardous environments as described in the Ohio Administrative Code.

The course does not permit student participation in any instruction involving the type of hazardous environments in which their fire department may operate.

- Prohibited activities include:
 - Environments which are considered to be “Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health” (IDLH), including but not limited to, hot zone operations at uncontrolled fires or hazardous materials releases involving fixed structures, mobile equipment, or outdoor areas as well as operation of emergency vehicle apparatus.

- Due to the limitations of the Ohio Volunteer Firefighter Course, firefighters certified to the Volunteer Firefighter level shall be provided the additional training necessary to participate in fire department activities that exceed the training provided in the Volunteer Firefighter Course. *The fire chief or the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) is responsible to provide additional proper training in these expanded areas if the firefighter is expected to function safely within an IDLH environment or operate emergency vehicle apparatus.*

2.0 National Fire Protection Association

NFPA's Mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. The organization's goal is to reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and property damage caused by fire and other hazards. One of the most important roles of the NFPA is to develop and publish codes and standards for fire safety. These codes and standards provide guidelines for the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings and other structures, as well as for the use of fire protection and life safety equipment. These codes and training standards are widely adopted by local and state governments, as well as by organizations in the private sector, and are often used as the basis for building codes and regulations. NFPA also conducts research on fire safety and provides training and education to help individuals and organizations improve their fire safety practices. The organization offers a wide range of courses and certifications related to fire safety, including training for firefighters, building inspectors, and other professionals. NFPA also works to raise awareness about fire safety and advocate for fire safety policies and regulations. The organization partners with other organizations and government agencies to promote fire safety and provide resources and information to the public.

2.1 State of Ohio NFPA Firefighter I Certification Training

The Firefighter I certification meets the minimum the "Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications" established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 as is the recommended minimum level of certification to provide firefighting services in the State of Ohio. The Firefighter I certification is the minimum level of certification recommended to provide firefighting services in the State of Ohio. The certification meets the minimum requirements set forth in the "Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications" established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 as a qualifying level of public safety responder for trained firefighters.

To be eligible for a Firefighter I certification, an individual shall complete a State of Ohio Firefighter I Course, a one-hundred-sixty (160) hour course provided by an Ohio chartered fire training program. The Firefighter I Course requirements meet or exceed the nationally recognized standard, NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

The course includes the following training:

- firefighter training,
- hazardous materials awareness and operations level training,

- training on the National Fallen Firefighters Association Sixteen Life Safety Initiatives.
- In addition to the Firefighter I course, students are required to complete an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course
- training on the National Incident Management System (NIMS), to be eligible for “Firefighter I” certification as recognized in the Ohio Revised Code.

An individual certified at the Firefighter I level will have demonstrated competency in the knowledge and practical skills required to perform at the Firefighter I level. The certification must be renewed every three years, with fifty-four (54) hours of continuing education required during each three year cycle.

2.2 Transition Training: From Volunteer to NFPA Firefighter I

A volunteer firefighter in the State of Ohio with only the minimum 36 hour awareness level and support level train can take a firefighter transition training course that meets the training requirements as required by the NFPA. Ohio’s Administrative Code states the following: The Ohio Administrative Code includes an option for firefighters certified as a Volunteer Firefighter (36 hour course) to transition from the volunteer firefighter certificate to an NFPA certified firefighter I certificate. The course is titled “Firefighter I Transition Course” and consists of an additional 124-hour training course, on top of the 36 hour volunteer train course provided by an Ohio chartered fire training program. All other qualifications for certification as a Firefighter I apply.

2.3 State of Ohio NFPA Firefighter II Certification Training

Firefighter II is the highest level of firefighter certification available in Ohio. The Firefighter II certification is typically required for career firefighters in the State of Ohio. The certification meets the minimum requirements set forth in the “Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications” established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 as a qualifying level of public safety responder for trained firefighters.

To be eligible for certification, students shall successfully complete the two-hundred-forty (240) hour Ohio Firefighter I and II Course through an Ohio chartered fire training program. The Firefighter II course requirements meet or exceed the nationally recognized standard, NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

The course includes the following training:

- firefighter training,
- hazardous materials awareness and operations level training,
- training on the National Fallen Firefighters Association Sixteen Life Safety Initiatives.
- Emergency Vehicle Operations Course

- training on the National Incident Management System (NIMS), to be eligible for “Firefighter II” certification as recognized in the Ohio Revised Code.

An individual certified at the Firefighter II level will have demonstrated competency in the knowledge and practical skills required to perform at the Firefighter II level. The certification must be renewed every three years, with fifty-four (54) hours of continuing education required during each three year cycle.

2.4 Transition Training: From NFPA Firefighter I to NFPA Firefighter II

A certified NFPA Firefighter I (160 hour training course), wanting to transition to an NFPA certified Firefighter II (240 hour training course) in the State of Ohio can take a firefighter transition training course that meets the training requirements as required by the NFPA. The Ohio Administrative Code includes an option for firefighters certified as a Firefighter I to transition from the Firefighter I certificate to a Firefighter II certificate. The course is titled “Firefighter II Transition Course” and consists of an 84-hour course provided by an Ohio chartered fire training program. All other qualifications for certification as a Firefighter II apply.

Submitted by: Troy A. Lloyd

Group Chair- Emergency Response Group

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