

Essential Firefighting Job Tasks and Descriptions from NFPA 1582, 2007 edition

- 1) Performing firefighting tasks (e.g., hose line operations, extensive crawling, lifting, carrying heavy objects, ventilating roofs or walls using power or hand tools, and forcible entry), rescue operations and other emergency response actions under stressful conditions while wearing personal protective ensembles and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), including working in extremely hot or cold environments for prolonged time periods.
- 2) Wearing an SCBA, which includes a demand valve-type positive-pressure face piece or HEPA filter masks, which requires the ability to tolerate increased respiratory workloads.
- 3) Exposure to toxic fumes, irritants, particulates, biological (infectious) and non-biological hazards, and/or heated gases, despite the use of personal protective ensembles and SCBA.
- 4) Climbing six or more flights of stairs while wearing fire protective ensemble weighing at least 50 lbs. or more and carrying equipment/tools weighing an additional 20 to 40 lbs.
- 5) Wearing fire protective ensemble that is encapsulating and insulated, which will result in significant fluid loss that frequently progresses to clinical dehydration and can elevate core temperature to levels exceeding 102.2°F (39°C).
- 6) Searching, finding, and rescue-dragging or carrying victims ranging from newborns up to adults weighing over 200 lbs. to safety despite hazardous conditions and low visibility.
- 7) Advancing water-filled 2 ½ diameter hose lines from fire apparatus to occupancy [approximately 150 ft.], which can involve negotiating multiple flights of stairs, ladders, and other obstacles.
- 8) Climbing ladders, operating from heights, walking or crawling in the dark along narrow and uneven surfaces, and operating in proximity to electrical power lines and/or other hazards.
- 9) Unpredictable emergency requirements for prolonged periods of extreme physical exertion without benefit of warm-up, scheduled rest periods, meals, access to medication(s), or hydration.
- 10) Operating fire apparatus or other vehicles in an emergency mode with emergency lights and sirens.
- 11) Critical, time-sensitive, complex problem solving during physical exertion in stressful, hazardous environments, including hot, dark, tightly enclosed spaces, that is further aggravated by fatigue, flashing lights, sirens, and other distractions.
- 12) Ability to give and comprehend verbal orders while wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA under conditions of high background noise, poor visibility, and drenching from hose lines and/or fixed protection systems (sprinklers), hear alarm signals, hear and locate the source of calls for assistance from victims or other firefighters.
- 13) Functioning as an integral component of a team, where sudden incapacitation of a member can result in mission failure or in risk of injury or death to civilians or other team members.