National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications

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National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications
Question #1

Who Do You Call?

The Fire Department!
Question #2

How do you know the responders are certified professionals who bring verified expertise?

One answer... *National certification!*
Evolution

- Maturing of fire rescue services
- Certification of career and volunteer fire/rescue personnel
- Certification based on meeting cognitive and skill competencies in NFPA/ANSI Pro-Qual standards
- Independent accreditation by
- Accrediting bodies in North America (Pro-Board and/or IFSAC)
The Pro Board

- A not-for-profit 501 (c) (3)
- Independent accrediting body
- Accredits state and provincial training and testing organizations which certify individuals to NFPA/ANSI standards
- Also accredits other non-profits that certify to specialty standards
- Maintains a National Registry
Brief History

- 1972 – NFPA and Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations develop standards
- NFPA standards become ANSI standards
- 2003 – 15 fire service positions covered by NFPA/ANSI consensus standards
- Several standards related to domestic preparedness agenda
Decentralized System

- Voluntary
- Not all states seek accreditation
- 2003 - 37 states accredited
- Agencies identify the standards and levels to which they will test and certify
- Many large cities are independent
- States also provide their own certificates to individuals

Add 17,000 to National Registry per year
National Picture

- Pro Board and/or IFSAC accredits 37 states, DOD and DC
- Pro Board, IFSAC use NFPA/ANSI Pro Qual standards
- Number of accredited agencies has been steadily increasing
- Need a way to verify skills of responders at all levels ("credentialing")
- Budget constraints
Skills Needed for National Disasters

- Most identical to skills required at the local or regional level for fire/rescue
- Automobile extrication, structural collapse and confined space rescue
- Hazmat awareness and response
- Specialized WMD training
- WMD awareness and training – added to NFPA/ANSI standards
Further Information

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