

# National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications

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National Board on Fire Service  
Professional Qualifications





# Question #1

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Who Do You Call?

*The Fire Department !*



## Question #2

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

One answer.. *National certification!*



# Evolution

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- 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 IFSAAC)



# The Pro Board

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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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