



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Component Specification NFQ Level TBC

Firefighting Skills .

1. Component Details

Title	Firefighting Skills
Teideal as Gaeilge	TBC
Award Type	Minor
Code	TBC
Level	6
Credit Value	15 Credits
Purpose	The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the relevant knowledge, skill and competence to effectively and safely deliver the core roles of a firefighter, as a member of a fire service team, cognisant of one's own safety, the safety of team members and the public
Learning Outcomes	Learners will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Explain the role of the firefighter, as an individual and as a team member, in responding to a range of operational incidents both within the built and natural environment.2 Assess the safety arrangements, including the legislation, safe person concept, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and risk assessment for the fire service.3 Describe the key elements of the National Incident Command System.

- 4 Describe the systems, policies and support mechanisms for managing critical incident and stress in the fire service.
- 5 Describe the principles and purpose of fire service drills.
- 6 Explain the principles of effective and safe working practices at road-based incidents, including initial casualty care and vehicle stabilisation.
- 7 Discuss the safety arrangements for working on, in or near water and working at heights.
- 8 Don and doff fire fighter personal protective equipment in accordance with approved methods.
- 9 Demonstrate the tying of common fire service knots.
- 10 Use equipment associated with working safely at heights and near water.
- 11 Operate portable fire fighting equipment, fire service hydrants, hose and branches/nozzles and foam.
- 12 Operate hydraulically operated extrication tools and equipment.
- 13 Use a range of fire service pumps.
- 14 Operate hydraulically operated extrication tools and equipment.
- 15 Manage the safe manual handling of fire service operational equipment.
- 16 Stabilise a range of single vehicle road traffic incidents following approved procedures.
- 17 Utilise a range of fire service ladders in accordance with approved methods.
- 18 Implement best safety and professional practice in responding to operational incidents.
- 19 Develop an understanding of the need to review and reflect on operational practice and use this to inform future performance and professional development.

Assessment

General Information

All assessment should be planned in accordance with the programme assessment strategy developed as part of the programme submission

for validation. See **Policies and Criteria for Validation of Programmes**. Assessment should be undertaken consistently and reflect current assessment guidelines. See www.qqi.ie.

All FET assessment is criterion referenced. Successful achievement of the award is based on learners attaining the required standards of knowledge, skill or competence consistent with the **minimum intended programme learning outcomes**.

The techniques set out below are considered the optimum approach to assessment for this component. In exceptional circumstances providers may identify alternative assessment techniques through the provider's application for programme validation which are reliable and valid but which are more appropriate to their context.

Assessment of a number of components may be integrated across programmes for delivery, provided that the learning outcomes of each minor award are assessed.

Group or team work may form part of the assessment, provided each learner's achievement is separately assessed.

All providers are required to submit an assessment plan as part of their application for programme validation. Assessment Plans will include information relating to scheduling and integration of assessment. See current FET validation guidelines at www.qqi.ie.

Assessment Techniques

In order to demonstrate that they have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence identified in all the learning outcomes, learners are required to complete the assessment(s) below.

The assessor is responsible for devising assessment instruments (e.g. project and assignment briefs, examination papers), assessment criteria and mark sheets, consistent with the techniques identified below and QQI's assessment requirements.

Programme validation will require providers to map each learning outcome to its associated assessment technique. All learning outcomes must be assessed and achieved in accordance with the minimum intended module learning outcomes set out in the validated programme.

Examination – Theory	30%
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Skills Demonstration	70%
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Description

Examination - Theory

An examination provides a means of assessing a learner's ability to recall and apply knowledge, skills and understanding within a set period of time and under clearly specified conditions.

A theory-based examination assesses the ability to recall, apply and understand specific theory and knowledge.

The assessor will devise a theory examination covering learning outcomes 1-7 inclusive.

This assessment must be passed in order to achieve the award.

Skills Demonstration

A skills demonstration is used to assess a wide range of practical based learning outcomes including practical skills and knowledge. A skills demonstration will require the learner to complete a task or series of tasks that demonstrate a range of skills.

The assessor will devise one or more skills demonstrations covering learning outcomes 8-19 inclusive

Assessing whether a learner does or does not achieve competence is a challenge for training in firefighting skills. A learner who does not achieve competence in a task is a potential danger to themselves, their colleagues and those members of the public they are entrusted to serve. A single serious event such as a panic reaction in the risk area, when performing a task during a skills demonstration assessment, must be carefully considered in light of the potential life safety implications.

This assessment is competency based, and is on a pass/fail basis. The candidate will be deemed to have failed if they have not achieved all available marks in these safety critical tasks. Assessment will be terminated in the event of a failure in any of the tasks set.

The learner is required to complete a skill demonstration in each of the areas listed:

- Manual handling of firefighting equipment – 5%
- Safe working at heights – 10%
- Hydrants – 5%
- Hose – 5%
- Ladders; roof, 10.5metre, 13.5metre – 15%
- Pumps – 10%
- Knots – 5%
- Road based scene safety – 5%
- Use of extrication tools – 5%
- Single vehicle stabilisation – 5%

This assessment must be passed in order to achieve the award.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

To support the development and implementation of RPL with regard to access, granting credit/exemptions and achievement of awards/parts of awards, providers should refer to **QQI's Statutory Guidelines for Quality Assurance**, the **Policies and Criteria for Validation of Programmes** and the **Principles and Operational Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Further and Higher Education and Training** available at www.qqi.ie

Grading

Pass	50% - 64%
Merit	65% - 79%
Distinction	80% - 100%

Specific Validation Requirements

The provider should have

1. Access to a training facility in compliance with current health and safety regulations
2. Access to fire service facilities of sufficient scale to ensure that all learners have access to the vehicles and equipment required to practice and achieve ALL learning outcomes to include:
 - Suitably sized training yard to accommodate the various training drills
 - Suitably sized training rooms to accommodate classroom presentations
 - Suitably sized training space to provide briefs and debriefs in operational gear
 - Suitably sized welfare, changing and drying facilities for operational gear
 - A standard Class B pumping appliance with all associated equipment, including hose, ladders, portable pumps, main pumps, hydraulic extrication equipment and ancillary fire service equipment – the maximum is for one such appliance per six learners
 - Access to appropriate sized and accessible fixed water source to provide 'open source'
 - Training tower and/or structure of appropriate geometry for the use of all fire service ladders, including minimum height to accommodate fully extended 13.5 metre ladder
 - Suitable vehicles to practice/demonstrate the appropriate extrication techniques, including the destructive use of said vehicles
3. The maximum ratio should be 1 trainer to 6 learners.
4. Stated policies and procedures to deal with potential risks that may be encountered

Supporting Documentation

1. Current relevant legislation
2. Firefighter Handbook – Fire Services Council

3. Standard Operational Guidance Documentation – National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management
4. Health and Safety Authority statutory regulations, codes of practice and guidelines
5. Manufacturers' vehicle and equipment operating instructions

Access

To access programmes leading to this award the learner should have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the preceding level of the National Framework of Qualifications. This may have been achieved through a formal qualification or through relevant life and work experience.

In addition, learners will be required to successfully complete a physical test and medical examination.

Transfer

Successful completion of this component award enables the learner to transfer to programmes leading to other certificates where this component is a mandatory or an elective requirement.