



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Component Specification NFQ Level 6

Firefighting Skills 6N20488

1. Component Details

Title	Firefighting Skills
Teideal as Gaeilge	Scileanna Comhrac Dóiteáin
Award Type	Minor
Code	6N20488
Level	6
Credit Value	15
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:

- 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 firefighting 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 Manage the safe manual handling of fire service operational equipment.
- 15 Stabilise a range of single vehicle road traffic incidents following approved procedures.
- 16 Utilise a range of fire service ladders in accordance with approved methods.
- 17 Implement best safety and professional practice having regard to the risks and control measures, in responding to a range of operational incidents.
- 18 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.

Skills Demonstration	70%
Examination - Theory	30%

Description

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 8-18 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 all tasks must be achieved, otherwise the candidate is deemed to have been unsuccessful.

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%

The assessor must provide clear guidelines on the tasks to be completed in each of the areas listed and identify potential faults, including critical faults affecting life safety. Safety critical tasks must be passed.

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

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.

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. National Incident Command System – Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
5. Health and Safety Authority statutory regulations, codes of practice and guidelines
6. 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.

2. FET Award Standards

QQI award standards are determined within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), <http://www.nfq-qqi.com>. QQI determines standards for the education and training awards that it makes itself and that are made by providers to whom it has delegated authority to make an award. Providers offering programmes leading to QQI awards **must** have their programme(s) validated in accordance with current validation policy (see www.qqi.ie).

Award standards are designed to be consistent with the NFQ's award classes i.e. major, special purpose, supplemental and minor awards. They are expressed in terms of **learning outcomes** i.e. concise statements of what the learner is expected to know or be able to do in order to achieve a particular award. Learning outcomes for FET awards are contained within the associated specifications:

AWARD CLASS	STANDARDS	AWARDS
Major Award	Certificate Specification	Certificate (Levels 1 to 5) Advanced Certificate (Level 6)
Supplemental Award	Supplemental Specification	Supplemental Certificate (Level 3 to 6)
Special Purpose	Specific Purpose Specification	Specific Purpose Certificate (Levels 3 to 6)
Minor Award	Component Specification	Component Certificate (Levels 1 to 6)

Award standards are thresholds, they describe standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired, and where appropriate, demonstrated, by a learner before an award may be made.

Award standards will be reviewed from time to time as necessary. Minor changes may be made by the QQI executive outside the review cycle where necessary. Changes to standards are published on QQI's website. Providers with validated programmes and providers with delegated

authority to make awards are responsible for monitoring relevant standards and making necessary responses to changes.

3. FET Credit

Every FET certificate and component specification includes an FET credit value (Table 1). FET credit is quantified in multiples of 5 FET credits (up to 50 hours of learner effort). Learner effort is based on the time taken by typical learners at the level of the award to achieve the learning outcomes for the award. It includes all learning time involved including: guided learning hours, self-directed learning and assessment.

Table 1: FET Credit Values

NFQ Level	Major Awards Credit Values	Default Credit Values Minor Awards	Other Permitted Minor Award Credit Values	Special Purpose and Supplemental Award Credit Value Ranges
1	20	5	10	
2	30	5	10	
3	60	10	5,20	>5 and<60
4	90	10	5,15,20	>5 and<90
5	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120
6	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120

Guide to Level

Learning outcomes at this level include a comprehensive range of skills which may be vocationally-specific and/or of a general supervisory nature, and require detailed theoretical understanding. The outcomes also provide for a particular focus on learning skills. The outcomes relate to working in a generally autonomous way to assume design and/or management and/or administrative responsibilities. Occupations at this level would include higher craft, junior technician and supervisor.

Strand	Sub-strand	Nature of learning
Knowledge	Breadth	Specialised knowledge of a broad area
	Kind	Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant underpinning theory
Know How & Skill	Range	Demonstrate a comprehensive range of specialised skills and tools
	Selectivity	Formulate responses to well defined abstract problems
Competence	Context	Act in a range of varied and specific contexts involving creative and non-routine activities; transfer and apply theoretical concepts and/or technical or creative skills to a range of contexts
	Role	Exercise substantial personal autonomy and often take responsibility for the work of others and/or for the allocation of resources; form and function within, multiple and complex heterogeneous groups.

Learning to Learn	Learn to evaluate own learning and identify needs within a structured learning environment; assist others in identifying learning needs
Insight	Express an internalised, personal world view, reflecting engagement with others.

Extract from 'Determinations for the Outline National Framework of Qualifications': NQAI

