

NFPA®

1143

**Standard for
Wildland Fire Management**

2018



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NFPA® 1143

Standard for

Wildland Fire Management

2018 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1143, *Standard for Wildland Fire Management*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Wildland Fire Management. It was issued by the Standards Council on August 1, 2017, with an effective date of August 21, 2017, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1143 was approved as an American National Standard on August 21, 2017.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1143

The first edition of NFPA 295, titled *Community Forest Fire Fighting Equipment*, was adopted by NFPA in 1934. The next edition was issued in 1956 as *Community Equipment and Organization for Fighting Forest, Grass and Brush Fires*. The document was retitled *Recommendations for Forest, Grass and Brush Fire Control* when it was issued in 1965 and retitled again, as *Recommendations for Wildfire Control and Environmental Improvement*, in 1972. In 1973, the document became a standard titled *Standard for Wildfire Control by Volunteer Fire Departments*, and it carried that title in the 1978 edition as well. The document was titled *Standard for Wildfire Control* with the issuance of the 1985 edition. Subsequent editions were issued in 1991 and 1998.

The 2003 edition was a complete rewrite of the document, which was renumbered and renamed NFPA 1143, *Standard for Wildland Fire Management*. In developing the 2003 edition, the technical committee recognized the development of the National Fire Plan in the United States and numerous mitigation efforts to solve the ailing forests and endangered communities in or near forested areas. In addition, the committee incorporated material to help small community and volunteer fire departments prepare for not only fire suppression in forested and wildland areas but also the broader task of wildland fire management, including mitigation, prevention, and community coordination.

The 2009 edition reflected the continued evolution of best practices in wildland fire management at the national level and further emphasized the full cycle of wildland fire management through mitigation, prevention, preparation, and suppression. The committee incorporated information to help make the document more consistent with NFPA standards on emergency services incident management and disaster management programs and to reflect current practices in regard to fire fighter safety.

The 2014 edition of NFPA 1143 was a reconfirmation of updates made in the 2009 edition. The committee updated cross-references throughout the document and updated figures to provide examples of modern equipment being utilized for wildland fire management. These updates provided the user with new examples of equipment such as dozers, helicopters, and airtankers.

In the 2018 edition of NFPA 1143, the technical committee revises the terminology from the document to be more representative of the document's intent. The technical committee aligns training and qualifications with the NFPA or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). The committee also aligns the incident management chapter to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Clarification of the terminology and redefinitions found in fire suppression subsections include size-up, fire engagement and management, and mop-up and demobilization. The technical committee revises the responsibilities of public information officer (PIO) to complement NIMS and revises the responsibilities of safety officer to participate in tactics and planning meetings that are also outlined in NIMS. The technical committee clarifies the required documentation for finance and administration and updates the NWCG referenced publications.

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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This committee shall have the primary responsibility for documents on wildland fire management.

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NFPA 1143

Standard for

Wildland Fire Management

2018 Edition

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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

A reference in brackets [] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another NFPA document. As an aid to the user, the complete title and edition of the source documents for extracts in mandatory sections of the document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in informational sections are given in Annex C. Extracted text may be edited for consistency and style and may include the revision of internal paragraph references and other references as appropriate. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the technical committee responsible for the source document.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex C.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope. This standard provides minimum requirements to fire protection organizations on the management of wildland fire, including prevention, mitigation, preparation, and suppression.

1.2* Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to specify management practices and policies necessary for a fire protection organization to develop a wildland fire management program.

1.3 Wildland Fire Management Policies.

1.3.1 The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall develop a policy for managing the organization in all aspects of wildland fire, including prevention, mitigation, preparation, and suppression.

1.3.1.1 As a minimum, the policy shall be established in accordance with legal mandates, organization priorities, planning procedures, incident management, personnel safety and training, and cooperative agreements.

1.3.1.2 Additional policy items shall be included as determined necessary by the AHJ.

1.3.2 Where the possibility of wildland fire constitutes a threat, the AHJ shall have a management plan to perform the activities as required by this standard.

1.3.3 The goal shall be to reduce wildland fire loss through the establishment, maintenance, and coordination of policies and programs addressing fire prevention, risk assessment and mitigation, planning, incident management, personnel, infrastructure, training, communications, fire suppression capabilities, and safety.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 1002, *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, 2017 edition.

NFPA 1026, *Standard for Incident Management Personnel Professional Qualifications*, 2014 edition.

NFPA 1051, *Standard for Wildland Firefighting Personnel Professional Qualifications*, 2016 edition.

NFPA 1141, *Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas*, 2017 edition.

NFPA 1144, *Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire*, 2018 edition.

NFPA 1451, *Standard for a Fire and Emergency Service Vehicle Operations Training Program*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program*, 2018 edition.

NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 1561, *Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System and Command Safety*, 2014 edition.

NFPA 1582, *Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments*, 2018 edition.

NFPA 1616, *Standard on Mass Evacuation, Sheltering, and Re-entry Programs*, 2017 edition.

NFPA 1977, *Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting*, 2016 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 NWCG (National Wildfire Coordinating Group) Publications. National Interagency Fire Center Publications, Great Basin Cache Supply Office, 3833 So. Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705.

NWCG I-100, *Introduction to the Incident Command System*, 2015.

NWCG L-180, *Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service*, 2014.

NWCG S-130, *Firefighter Training*, 2003.

NWCG S-190, *Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior*, 2008.

N 2.3.2 Other Publications.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA, 2003.

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 1, *Fire Code*, 2018 edition.

NFPA 101®, *Life Safety Code*®, 2018 edition.

NFPA 1051, *Standard for Wildland Firefighting Personnel Professional Qualifications*, 2016 edition.

NFPA 1141, *Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas*, 2017 edition.

NFPA 1451, *Standard for a Fire and Emergency Service Vehicle Operations Training Program*, 2013 edition.

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this standard. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3 Labeled. Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with product evaluation, that maintains periodic inspection of production of labeled equipment or materials, and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.

3.2.4* Listed. Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

3.2.5 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.6 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

3.2.7 Standard. An NFPA Standard, the main text of which contains only mandatory provisions using the word "shall" to indicate requirements and that is in a form generally suitable for mandatory reference by another standard or code or for adoption into law. Nonmandatory provisions are not to be

considered a part of the requirements of a standard and shall be located in an appendix, annex, footnote, informational note, or other means as permitted in the NFPA Manuals of Style. When used in a generic sense, such as in the phrase "standards development process" or "standards development activities," the term "standards" includes all NFPA Standards, including Codes, Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guides.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Agency. A division of government with a specific function or a nongovernmental organization (e.g., private business) that offers a particular kind of assistance.

3.3.2* Apparatus. A motor-driven vehicle or group of vehicles designed and constructed for the purpose of fighting fires.

3.3.3 Command. The act of directing and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority.

3.3.4 Finance. The incident management section responsible for all incident costs and financial considerations.

3.3.5 Fire Hazard. A fuel complex, defined by volume, type, condition, arrangement, and location, that determines the degree of ease of ignition and of resistance to control.

3.3.6 Incident. An occurrence, either human-caused or a natural phenomenon, that requires action or support by emergency services personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources.

3.3.7* Incident Action Plan (IAP). A plan that contains objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy, specific tactical actions, and supporting information for the next operational period.

3.3.8 Incident Commander (IC). The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

▲ 3.3.9* Incident Management System (IMS). A system that defines the roles and responsibilities to be assumed by responders and the standard operating procedures/standard operating guidelines (SOPs/SOGs) to be used in the management and direction of emergency incidents and other functions.

▲ 3.3.10 Jurisdiction. Any governmental unit or political division or a subdivision. [1, 2018]

3.3.11 Liaison. The individual responsible for the coordination of activities with assisting agencies.

3.3.12 Logistics. The incident management section responsible for providing facilities, services, support, and materials for the incident.

3.3.13 Mitigation. Action that moderates the severity of a fire hazard or risk.

3.3.14 Operations. The incident management section responsible for all tactical operations at the incident.

3.3.15 Planning. The incident management section responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of tactical information related to the incident and for preparation and documentation of incident management plans.

3.3.16 Prevention. Activities, including public education, law enforcement, personal contact, and reduction of fuel hazards, directed at reducing the incidence of fires.

3.3.17 Risk. A measure of the probability and severity of adverse effects that result from exposure to a hazard. [1451, 2013]

3.3.18 Stakeholder. An individual, or representative of same, having an interest in the successful completion of a project. [101, 2018]

3.3.19* Unified Command. A standard method to coordinate command of an incident where multiple agencies have jurisdiction.

3.3.20* Values at Risk. Public and private resources, which include, but are not limited to, property, structures, physical improvements, natural and cultural resources, community infrastructure, and economic, environmental, and social values.

3.3.21* Wildland Fire. An unplanned and uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, including any structures or other improvements thereon. [1141, 2017]

3.3.22* Wildland/Urban Interface. Locations in which the AHJ determines that topographical features, vegetation fuel types, local weather conditions, and prevailing winds result in the potential for ignition of the structures within the area from flames and firebrands of a wildland fire.

3.3.23* Wildland/Urban Interface Coordinator. The person responsible for the development of the plan(s) for the reduction of the fire risks and hazards associated in the wildland/urban interface. [1051, 2016]

3.3.24 Wildland/Urban Interface Protection Specialist. The person responsible for the development and/or implementation of a plan to protect people, animals, communities, individual structures, or other improvements from a wildland fire. [1051, 2016]

Chapter 4 Risk/Hazard Assessment and Mitigation

4.1* General. The AHJ shall develop a written risk and hazard assessment and mitigation plan based on values at risk and consistent with fire fighter and public safety.

4.2 Values at Risk.

4.2.1 The AHJ shall involve the community, landowners, industry, and other stakeholders in the identification of values to be protected within the jurisdiction.

4.2.2 The values shall include, but not be limited to, health, safety, property, and resource values, as well as the social, economic, environmental, and political concerns of the local jurisdiction.

4.3 Ignition Risk Assessment.

4.3.1 The AHJ shall evaluate the potential and historical sources of ignition.

4.3.2* The evaluation shall include both natural and human sources of ignition.

4.4* Fire Hazard Assessment.

4.4.1 The AHJ shall assess the severity of wildland fires within or threatening the jurisdiction.

4.4.2 The assessment shall consider, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Vegetation (fuels)
- (2) Topography
- (3) Aspect
- (4) Fire history
- (5) Historical fire weather
- (6) Fire danger rating
- (7) Potential fire behavior
- (8) Fire-fighting capabilities and limitations
- (9) Ingress and egress

▲ **4.4.3** In the assessment of wildland/urban interface hazards to structures, the requirements in NFPA 1144 shall apply.

4.5* Mitigation Plan.

4.5.1 Plan Development. Based on the values, ignition risk assessment, and fire hazard assessment, the AHJ shall develop a plan identifying the required mitigation activities, responsible party, priorities, and implementation schedule.

4.5.1.1* This plan shall be developed and implemented in coordination with the stakeholders.

4.5.2 Activities. The mitigation activities shall include, but not be limited to, the details outlined in 4.5.3 through 4.5.8.

4.5.3 Ignitions. The AHJ shall identify the prevention activities that reduce the occurrence of human-caused ignition.

4.5.4 Fuels Treatment.

4.5.4.1 The AHJ shall identify activities necessary to mitigate fire behavior characteristics through fuel modification.

4.5.4.2 Acceptable methods of fuel treatment include, but are not limited to, prescribed burning by qualified personnel, mowing, pruning, removing, species substitution, mulching, chemical treatments, converting to compost, and grazing.

4.5.5* Public Education. The AHJ shall appoint a qualified individual(s) whose duties shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Scheduling and facilitating public meetings to identify values at risk, wildland fire threats, and potential mitigation strategies
- (2) Disseminating information concerning activities and their status through development and distribution of prevention information
- (3) Familiarizing press and media representatives with the threat of wildland fire and mitigation strategies

4.5.6 Structures.

▲ **4.5.6.1** Where a wildland fire ignition risk and fire hazard severity assessment indicates the need, mitigation activities for existing construction shall be consistent with NFPA 1144.

▲ **4.5.6.2** The design criteria for new construction and land development in and near wildland fire threats shall be consistent with NFPA 1141 and NFPA 1144.

4.5.7 Infrastructure. The AHJ shall evaluate and consider the need for modification or additions to the infrastructure, including the following:

- (1) Roads — including ingress/egress
- (2) Water supply
- (3) Communications
- (4) Utility corridors
- (5) Transportation corridors
- (6) Airports

Δ **4.5.7.1** All new or modified infrastructure shall comply with the provisions of NFPA 1141.

4.5.8* Special Considerations. The AHJ shall comply with civil and environmental laws in the planning and implementation of mitigation activities, including those pertaining to threatened and endangered species and historical and cultural resources.

Δ **4.6* Evaluation of Mitigation Plan.** The AHJ shall, on an annual basis, review the mitigation plan to monitor progress of mitigation activities and to determine whether priorities have changed.

Chapter 5 Preparedness

5.1 Wildland Fire Response Planning.

5.1.1 The AHJ shall evaluate the capabilities and limitations of existing fire-fighting resources.

5.1.2 When the situation indicates that additional resources are needed, consideration shall be given to the following:

- (1)* Mutual Aid and Cooperative Fire Protection agreements
- (2) Budget adjustments for additional personnel, apparatus, or other equipment
- (3) Government and private sector grants
- (4) Volunteer recruitment
- (5) Additional training
- (6) Improved tactics
- (7) Use of improved and innovative techniques

5.1.3 Preparedness Planning. The AHJ shall develop a written preparedness plan(s) for wildland fire management consistent with fire fighter and public safety.

5.1.3.1 The plan(s) shall be based on life safety, followed by property and natural resources to be protected, as well as the political, social, economic, environmental, and other concerns of the local jurisdictions.

Δ **5.1.3.2** This plan shall, on an annual basis, be reviewed and, as a minimum, include the following:

- (1) Identification of specific wildland fire hazards, ignition risks, and potential hazard areas within the jurisdiction and other hazards that have a negative effect on wildland fire management efforts
- (2) Identification of fire protection features such as lakes, rivers, water points, natural firebreaks, potential escape routes, and other areas or features that are beneficial to wildland fire management efforts
- (3)* A list of fire-fighting resources, including personnel, apparatus, and equipment
- (4) A list of all cooperating agencies and other mutual aid resources and the procedures for requesting assistance from those agencies and resources

- (5) A reference to any and all existing mutual aid agreements, contracts, and other protection agreements applicable to wildland fire management efforts
- (6) A list of specific objectives relating to training, safety, response times, and staffing levels
- (7) A list of other resources that provide analyses of fire cause, identification of special fire hazards, identification of ignition risks, assessment of wildland/urban interface fire protection problems, and proposed measures to reduce fire occurrence
- (8) Reference NFPA 1616 for mass evacuation, sheltering, and re-entry guidance

5.2* Financial Planning. The financial element of the preparedness plan shall include, as a minimum, the contractual agreements to provide for the following services:

- (1) Fuel, oil, and lubricants
- (2) Medical services, including injury reports
- (3) Catering services, food, and drinking water
- (4) Incident-specific personnel hiring and compensation
- (5) Outside services, including lodging and communications
- (6) Equipment maintenance
- (7) Specialized fire-fighting equipment
- (8) Purchasing practices, procedures, and agreements
- (9) Other incident support

5.3* Safety Requirements. The AHJ shall develop safety requirements that include 5.3.1 through 5.3.5.

5.3.1 The AHJ shall develop a safety program that includes all aspects of wildland fire incident operation, personnel welfare, and the use of personal protective clothing and equipment.

Δ **5.3.1.1** The program shall be established in accordance with jurisdictional policies and procedures and reflect the established guidance provided by NFPA 1500.

Δ **5.3.1.2*** All personal protective clothing and equipment shall meet the requirements of NFPA 1977.

Δ **5.3.2** The safety officer's function shall be to carry out duties in accordance with established wildland fire incident procedures and the criteria outlined in NFPA 1521.

5.3.3 Protective measures shall be taken for apparatus and equipment used during wildland fire incidents.

Δ **5.3.4** Equipment operators shall meet the requirements of NFPA 1002 and be trained as outlined in NFPA 1451.

Δ **5.3.5** The AHJ shall follow the medical examination standards established in NFPA 1582.

5.4* Training and Qualifications.

Δ **5.4.1** All wildland fire fighters shall have a working knowledge and the skills of wildland fire safety practices and procedures meeting the requirements in National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) S-130, *Firefighter Training*, S-190, *Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior*, L-180, *Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service*, and I-100, *Introduction to the Incident Command System*.

5.4.2* All personnel responding to wildland fire shall meet the job performance requirements of NFPA 1051.

5.4.3* All members of the agencies and organizations involved in wildland fire suppression shall be trained in safety procedures around air operations.

Chapter 6 Incident Management

Δ 6.1* Organizational Structure. In the management of wildland fire incidents, the AHJ shall utilize an incident management system (IMS) as specified in NFPA 1561.

6.1.1 At the initial stages of the incident, all command and support functions shall be the direct responsibility of the incident commander (IC).

6.1.2 As the incident grows in size and complexity, the functions shall be delegated as appropriate to qualified personnel as specified in NFPA 1026.

N 6.1.3 The organizational structure identified in Section 6.1 shall be compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

6.2* Functional Responsibilities. Each of the following functions as specified in 6.2.1 through 6.2.3.4 shall be addressed regardless of the size and complexity of the incident:

- (1) Incident command
- (2) Operations
- (3) Planning
- (4) Logistics
- (5) Finance

6.2.1* Incident Command Functions.

Δ 6.2.1.1* The responsibilities of incident command shall be carried out by the IC.

N 6.2.1.2 These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1)* Developing the command and support organization for the incident
- (2) Establishing a command post
- (3) Developing, reviewing, revising, evaluating, approving, and distributing an incident action plan (IAP) for each operational period
- (4) Ensuring adequate safety measures are followed, using the following principles:
 - (a) Activities that present a significant risk to the safety of fire fighters shall be limited to situations where there is a potential to save endangered lives.
 - (b) In those situations where improved property is threatened but lives are not at risk, threats to fire fighter safety shall be minimized.
- (5) Maintaining command throughout the duration of the incident, including transfer and termination of command
- (6)* Acquiring a formal Delegation of Authority from the AHJ
- (7) Controlling access of essential and nonessential individuals to the incident scene
- (8) Maintaining awareness of situation status
- (9) Evaluating progress of the incident
- (10) Maintaining awareness of deployment of all assigned units
- (11) Maintaining personnel accountability
- (12) Requesting additional resources as needed
- (13) Notifying key people, officials, and the AHJ of incident status
- (14) Approving release of information to the public
- (15) Approving the demobilization of resources

6.2.2* Command Staff Functions.

6.2.2.1 Public Information Officer.

6.2.2.1.1 The public information officer shall develop and release approved information about the incident to the news media, to incident personnel, and to other appropriate agencies and organizations.

6.2.2.1.2 Only one public information officer shall be assigned for each incident, including incidents operating under unified command and multijurisdictional incidents.

6.2.2.1.3 The public information officer shall be permitted to have assistants as necessary, and the assistants shall be permitted to also represent assisting agencies or jurisdictions.

Δ 6.2.2.1.4 The following are the major responsibilities of the public information officer, which shall apply to any incident:

- (1) Determine from the IC if there are any limits on information release
- (2) Develop material for use in media briefings
- (3) Obtain IC's approval of media releases
- (4) Inform media and conduct media briefings
- (5) Arrange for tours and other interviews or briefings as requested
- (6) Obtain media information that can be useful to incident planning
- (7) Maintain current information summaries and displays on the incident and provide information on the status of the incident to assigned personnel
- (8) Maintain unit log
- (9) Participate in planning meeting

6.2.2.2 Liaison Officer.

6.2.2.2.1 Incidents that are multijurisdictional, or have several agencies involved, shall be permitted to establish the position of liaison officer on the command staff.

6.2.2.2.2* The liaison officer shall be the contact for the personnel assigned to the incident by assisting or cooperating agencies.

6.2.2.2.3 The following are the major responsibilities of the liaison officer, which shall apply to any incident:

- (1) Be a contact point for agency representatives
- (2) Maintain a list of assisting and cooperating agencies and agency representatives
- (3) Assist in establishing and coordinating interagency contacts
- (4) Keep agencies supporting the incident aware of incident status
- (5) Monitor incident operations to identify current or potential inter-organizational problems
- (6) Participate in planning meetings and provide current resource status, including limitations and capability of assisting agency resources
- (7) Maintain unit log

6.2.2.3 Safety Officer.

6.2.2.3.1 Standard operating procedures/standard operating guidelines (SOPs/SOGs) shall define criteria for the response or appointment of a safety officer.

Δ 6.2.2.3.2* The safety officer and assistant safety officer(s) shall be specifically identifiable on the incident scene.

6.2.2.3.3 The safety officer shall monitor conditions, activities, and operations to determine whether they fall within the criteria as defined in the incident's risk management plan. When the perceived risk(s) is not within these criteria, the safety officer shall take action as outlined in 6.2.1.2(4).

Δ 6.2.2.3.4 The following are the major responsibilities of the safety officer, which shall apply to any incident:

- (1) Participate in tactics and planning meetings
- (2) Identify hazardous situations associated with the incident
- (3) Review the IAP for safety implications
- (4) Exercise emergency authority to stop and prevent unsafe acts
- (5) Investigate accidents that have occurred within the incident area
- (6) Assign assistants as needed
- (7) Review and approve the medical plan
- (8) Maintain unit log

6.2.3 General Staff Functions.

Δ 6.2.3.1 Operations Function. The operations function shall be responsible for carrying out the strategic and tactical plans of the incident and shall include incident and post-incident planning and actions.

N 6.2.3.1.1 The responsibilities of operations are carried out by the IC until delegated to a qualified operations section chief.

N 6.2.3.1.2 These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Evaluating, organizing, and assigning available resources following SOPs/SOGs based on the scale and complexity of operations
- (2) Evaluating the number of qualified and equipped people available, their physical condition, their experience and skill levels, and their availability
- (3) Evaluating the types and amount of equipment and apparatus available within a specified response time, where the resources are located, how they can be transported to the incident, and the suitability of such equipment for use in wildland fire management, considering terrain and other local conditions
- (4) Carrying out tactical functions to support the IAP
- (5) Ensuring that all safety elements of the IAP are followed
- (6) Maintaining accountability for all tactical resources
- (7) Developing the operations portion of the IAP, including tactical work assignments
- (8) Requesting resources as needed to implement the IAP
- (9) Maintaining close contact with subordinate tactical supervisors
- (10) Directing release of resources from assigned status (not release from the incident)
- (11) Implementing tactical changes to the IAP during the operational period as necessary
- (12) Maintaining close communication with the IC
- (13) Maintaining unit log

6.2.3.2 Planning Function. The planning function shall be the responsibility of the IC for the preparation of all plans necessary to carry out the purpose and goals of the fire management agencies and organizations.

Δ 6.2.3.2.1 The responsibilities of planning are carried out by the IC until delegated to a qualified planning section chief.

N 6.2.3.2.2 These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Organizing a planning section to include the following units as necessary:
 - (a) Resources unit
 - (b) Situation unit
 - (c) Documentation unit
 - (d) Demobilization unit
 - (e) Specialized positions
- (2) Collecting, evaluating, developing, and disseminating information
- (3) Accounting for organizational structure, availability of resources, and deployment of resources
- (4) Maintaining, documenting, and displaying situation and resource status
- (5)* Developing the proposed IAP in coordination with command and general staff
- (6) Disseminating the IAP for each operational period
- (7) Reassigning personnel already on site to IMS organizational positions as appropriate
- (8) Determining the need for any specialized resources in support of the incident
- (9) Overseeing preparation of incident demobilization plan
- (10) Maintaining unit log

6.2.3.3 Logistics Function. The logistics function shall be responsible to the IC for providing support resources that meet the goals and purposes of the wildland fire management effort.

Δ 6.2.3.3.1 The responsibilities of logistics shall be carried out by the IC until delegated to a qualified logistics section chief.

N 6.2.3.3.2* These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Assessing and determining the need for facilities, communications, support services, supplies, and equipment
- (2) Organizing a logistics section to include the following units as necessary:
 - (a) Supply unit
 - (b)* Facilities unit
 - (c)* Ground support unit
 - (d)* Communications unit
 - (e) Food unit
 - (f) Medical unit
- (3) Managing all incident logistics
- (4) Providing logistical input during the tactics meeting and through required documents for preparing the IAP
- (5) Identifying anticipated and known incident service and support requirements
- (6) Requesting or acquiring additional resources as needed
- (7) Preparing and disseminating the communications plan, medical plan, and traffic plan for the IAP
- (8) Supporting demobilization

6.2.3.4 Finance/Administration Function. The IC shall be responsible for the finance/administration function for all aspects of financial management in support of the fire protection organization.

Δ 6.2.3.4.1 The responsibilities of finance/administration shall be carried out by the IC until delegated to a qualified finance section chief.

N 6.2.3.4.2 These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Organizing a finance/administration section to include the following units as necessary:
 - (a) Time unit
 - (b) Procurement unit
 - (c) Compensation/claims unit
 - (d) Cost unit
- (2) Managing all financial aspects of an incident
- (3) Providing financial and cost analysis information to the IC and to others as requested
- (4) Gathering pertinent information from briefings with responsible agencies
- (5) Developing an operating plan for the finance/administration section
- (6) Filling supply and support needs
- (7) Meeting with representatives of assisting and cooperating agencies as needed
- (8) Maintaining daily contact with agency administrator's headquarters on finance/administration matters
- (9) Ensuring that all personnel time records are completed and transmitted to home agencies, according to policy
- (10) Providing financial input to demobilization planning
- (11) Ensuring that all obligation documents (e.g., contracts, purchase orders) initiated at the incident are prepared and completed
- (12) Following a methodology for the disbursement of funds

6.3 Multijurisdictional Incidents. AHJs shall implement a unified command system or a single command system to coordinate among responsible agencies or organizations.

6.4 Coordination. The IC shall coordinate with all assisting and cooperating agencies or organizations.

Chapter 7 Fire Suppression

7.1 Size-Up. Upon arrival, the IC shall conduct a size-up to determine the extent of the fire and its potential, taking into consideration the following factors:

- (1) Incident type
- (2) Location/jurisdiction
- (3) Incident size
- (4) Incident status
- (5) Incident command and fire name
- (6) Weather conditions
- (7) Radio frequencies
- (8) Best access routes
- (9) Special hazards or concerns
- (10) Additional resource needs

7.2* Fire Engagement and Management.

7.2.1* The IC shall deploy personnel and equipment to the incident according to strategic and tactical plans [the incident action plan (IAP)], within the priorities established for the incident and with consideration for the safety of the public and incident-assigned personnel.

7.2.2 Once the threat to life and property is evaluated, the IC shall plan for and execute tasks necessary for the overall management of the incident.

7.2.3 The incident management plan shall address the following issues:

- (1) Fire fighter and public safety
- (2) Available resources
- (3) Overall incident strategy
- (4) Tactical operations

7.3 Mop-Up and Demobilization.

7.3.1 When the IAP requires containment and management of the fire, the IC shall ensure that mop-up operations meet the needs of the local unit and facilitate the return of the incident to the local fire manager.

7.3.2 The IC shall ensure that the demobilization of resources is carried out in a safe, effective, and efficient manner.

Chapter 8 Post-Incident Activities

8.1* Reporting.

8.1.1 The AHJ or designee shall complete and file incident reports as required.

8.1.2 Such reports, whether hard copy or electronic, shall be filed within the time frame specified by the state, provincial, or federal authority.

8.2 Incident Review and Close Out.

8.2.1 After completion of the incident, the AHJ, in conjunction with the IC, shall conduct a review of the actions taken during the incident.

8.2.2 Designated personnel from all functional areas of the incident shall be in attendance to provide for a thorough review of the operation.

Δ 8.2.3 The AHJ shall review all activities related to the incident, including safety practices and provisions; strategy and tactics to accomplish overall objectives; the deployment of personnel, equipment, and apparatus; support functions; and the overall management of the incident.

8.2.4 The AHJ shall take corrective actions in all areas where deficiencies exist or problems occurred.

8.2.5 All reviews and evaluations shall be conducted as constructive critiques to determine the facts related to the incident.

8.2.6 As a minimum, evaluations shall cover the following:

- (1) Examination of accidents, injuries, or fatalities connected to the incident to determine cause(s) and contributing factors and, where applicable, to recommend corrective actions
- (2) Examination of the actions used on the incident and confirmation of effective decisions or corrected deficiencies
- (3) Identification and evaluation of new or improved procedures, techniques, or tactics used on the incident
- (4) Identification of potential alternative procedures, techniques, tactics, or equipment for effective use in future incidents
- (5) Examination of the incident to determine fire cause(s) and contributing factors and, where applicable, to recommend preventive or mitigating measures

8.3 Finance/Administration.

8.3.1 The AHJ shall satisfy all financial commitments related to the incident, including cost-share agreements.

8.3.2 The AHJ shall review and investigate any known financial claims or potential liabilities related to the incident.

8.3.3 The AHJ shall prepare and distribute the required documentation that will provide the necessary information to initiate the issuing of reimbursable bills to the appropriate parties.

8.3.4 The AHJ shall establish a process to ensure all financial obligations are met.

Annex A Explanatory Material

Annex A is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only. This annex contains explanatory material, numbered to correspond with the applicable text paragraphs.

A.1.2 This standard provides wildfire management information and minimum requirements for communities in rural and forested areas. Many of these communities are exposed to the dangers of large fires involving many acres of natural fuels, such as forest, grass, or brush. To prepare for such emergencies, the responsible fire protection organizations and individuals should be aware of the most recent and useful wildland fire management techniques, equipment, training, and operations.

This standard includes a list of mandatory requirements that must be met if fire fighters are to be safe in the prevention and suppression of wildland fires. Additional information on large equipment, heavy power tools, specialized wildland fire-fighting equipment, and techniques for landscape management, prescribed fire, smoke management, community and subdivision planning, and other mitigation measures is available in other publications.

In many rural and wildland areas, forest, grass, crop, and brush fires are a continual problem. These fires, if not controlled, can endanger human life and cause serious damage to property, natural resources, and the environment. Evaluation of wildland fires has shown that fire damage can be prevented or minimized if mitigation efforts are made and when, in the case of such fires, aggressive suppression actions by trained fire fighters are executed in the early stages of fire development.

A.3.2.1 Approved. The National Fire Protection Association does not approve, inspect, or certify any installations, procedures, equipment, or materials; nor does it approve or evaluate testing laboratories. In determining the acceptability of installations, procedures, equipment, or materials, the authority having jurisdiction may base acceptance on compliance with NFPA or other appropriate standards. In the absence of such standards, said authority may require evidence of proper installation, procedure, or use. The authority having jurisdiction may also refer to the listings or labeling practices of an organization that is concerned with product evaluations and is thus in a position to determine compliance with appropriate standards for the current production of listed items.

A.3.2.2 Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The phrase “authority having jurisdiction,” or its acronym AHJ, is used in NFPA documents in a broad manner, since jurisdictions and approval agencies vary, as do their responsibilities. Where

public safety is primary, the authority having jurisdiction may be a federal, state, local, or other regional department or individual such as a fire chief; fire marshal; chief of a fire prevention bureau, labor department, or health department; building official; electrical inspector; or others having statutory authority. For insurance purposes, an insurance inspection department, rating bureau, or other insurance company representative may be the authority having jurisdiction. In many circumstances, the property owner or his or her designated agent assumes the role of the authority having jurisdiction; at government installations, the commanding officer or departmental official may be the authority having jurisdiction.

A.3.2.4 Listed. The means for identifying listed equipment may vary for each organization concerned with product evaluation; some organizations do not recognize equipment as listed unless it is also labeled. The authority having jurisdiction should utilize the system employed by the listing organization to identify a listed product.

A.3.3.2 Apparatus. Examples include engines and tenders.

A.3.3.7 Incident Action Plan (IAP). The plan might be oral or written. When written, the plan might have a number of attachments, including incident objectives, organization assignment list, assignment list, incident radio communication plan, medical plan, traffic plan, safety plan, weather and fire behavior forecasts, and incident map.

A.3.3.9 Incident Management System (IMS). The system is also referred to as an incident command system (ICS). [1561, 2014]

A.3.3.19 Unified Command. Unified command is a team effort that allows all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of objectives and strategies. This should be accomplished without loss of or abdication of authority, responsibility, or accountability.

A.3.3.20 Values at Risk. Such resources include timber, watershed, wildlife, unique scenic and recreation areas, range, air quality, structures, and people.

A.3.3.21 Wildland Fire. The terms *wildfire* and *wildland fire* are often used interchangeably by many in and out of the fire protection community. This document prefers the term *wildland fire* as all encompassing when referring to fires in the wildland, wildland/urban interface, and/or wildland/urban intermix areas.

A.3.3.22 Wildland/Urban Interface. The term *wildland/urban interface* can distort the perception of the primary issue. It can direct attention to “where” structures are located (e.g., at the edge of communities near the wildland) rather than if they are highly ignitable. And if so, the focus on “where” can result in a concern about things that won’t make a big difference in reducing structure loss (i.e., how fire fighters and equipment get there, what type of fire equipment is needed, and the location of fire hydrants and water sources). How wide the roads are and where the fire hydrants are located become of little value if there are more structures at risk than equipment to protect them, or if it’s too dangerous to safely be there with fire-fighting forces.

The essence of this issue is not where structures and domestic landscapes adjoin wildland, but the location, density, and availability of ignitable structures. Which structures are at the