

NFPA 1144

Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire

2002 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA 1144
Standard for
Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire
2002 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1144, *Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Forest and Rural Fire Protection and acted on by NFPA at its May Association Technical Meeting held May 19–23, 2002, in Minneapolis, MN. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 19, 2002, with an effective date of August 8, 2002, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1144 was approved as an American National Standard on July 19, 2002.

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Origin and Development of NFPA 1144

NFPA 1144, *Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire*, was first developed by the Forest and Rural Fire Protection Committee, following the tragic wildfires that resulted in the loss of 44 lives and 1400 homes in the United States in 1985. More recent wildland/urban interface fires, such as the 1991 conflagration in Oakland, CA and the fires in Laguna Beach, CA (1993), and Malibu, CA (1996), have demonstrably shown that fire fighters are often placed in dangerous situations due to inadequate planning and design of roadways, signs, water supplies, and other infrastructure considerations as well as the increasing population of residential areas encroaching into wildland areas. The fire season of 2000 resulted in renewed interest for seeking more creative alternative methods to reduce historical trends of catastrophic fires.

Originally numbered NFPA 299, this document has been officially adopted by state and local governments and adapted for use by numerous jurisdictions involved in planning Firewise Communities. This edition, which has been renumbered as NFPA 1144, includes clarification of numerous requirements in the earlier editions and a significant revision of the Wildland Fire Risk and Hazard Severity Assessment system. The Committee increased the severity values for non-rated roofing, inadequate separation of vegetation from structures, and separation of structures from one another. The Committee tested various assessment system versions in several Firewise Communities Workshops, sponsored by the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program, before arriving at the relative values and hazard levels in this document. The Committee supports use of these values as relative numbers for planning purposes.

This standard presents basic criteria for fire agencies, land use planners, architects, developers, and local government for planning development in areas that may be threatened by wildfire. This standard, when used in a cooperative approach among key disciplines, will provide guidance in the design and development of Firewise Communities in or near wildland fire prone areas. It is hoped that the requirements set forth in this document will, first, help protect the lives of both residents and fire fighters when wildfires strike and, second, reduce property damage.

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This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.

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.

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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, Annex C lists the complete title and edition of the source documents for both mandatory and nonmandatory extracts. Editorial changes to extracted material consist of revising references to an appropriate division in this document or the inclusion of the document number with the division number when the reference is to the original document. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the appropriate technical committee.

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

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope. This standard shall be used to provide minimum planning, construction, maintenance, education, and management elements for the protection of life, property, and other values that could be threatened by wildland fire.

1.2 Purpose. This standard shall be used to provide minimum requirements for planning, construction, maintenance, fire prevention, and management to parties responsible for fire protection, land use planning, property development, property maintenance, and others responsible for or interested in improving fire and life safety in areas where wildland fire could threaten lives, property, and other values.

1.3 Application.

1.3.1 This standard shall not be construed as prohibiting any construction or planning features that will provide fire protection at least as equivalent to that required by this standard and that which has been set forth by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

1.3.2 This standard shall not be used to set forth the general fire protection features or procedures addressed in other standards.

1.3.3 The authority having jurisdiction shall use recognized fire protection measures to meet local conditions.

1.3.4 When unusual local conditions exist, the authority having jurisdiction shall determine equivalent requirements that provide a level of protection no less than would be afforded by full compliance with this standard.

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, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

NFPA 24, *Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*, 2000 edition.

NFPA 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*, 2001 edition.

NFPA 241, *Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations*, 2000 edition.

NFPA 1142, *Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting*, 2001 edition.

NFPA 1561, *Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System*, 2002 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 AWWA Publications. American Water Works Association, 6666 West Quincy Avenue, Denver, CO 80235.

AWWA Standard C-502, *Dry Barrel Fire Hydrants*.

AWWA Standard C-503, *Wet Barrel Fire Hydrants*.

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 included, common usage of the terms shall apply.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3* 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.

3.2.4 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.5 Standard. A document, the main text of which contains only mandatory provisions using the word “shall” to indicate requirements and which is in a form generally suitable for mandatory reference by another standard or code or for adoption into law. Nonmandatory provisions shall be located in an appendix or annex, footnote, or fine-print note and are not to be considered a part of the requirements of a standard.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Accessory Structure. Any structure used incidentally to another structure.

3.3.2 Alternative. A system, condition, arrangement, material, or equipment submitted to the authority having jurisdiction as a substitute for a requirement in a standard.

3.3.3 Aspect. Compass direction toward which a slope faces.

3.3.4 Building. Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy. [101:3.3]