

NFPA 1201

Standard for Providing Emergency Services to the Public

2004 Edition



NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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Standard for
Providing Emergency Services to the Public
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This edition of NFPA 1201, *Standard for Providing Emergency Services to the Public*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Emergency Service Organization Risk Management and acted on by NFPA at its May Association Technical Meeting held May 23–26, 2004, in Salt Lake City, UT. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 16, 2004, with an effective date of August 5, 2004, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1201 was approved as an American National Standard on August 5, 2004.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1201

Sections of this document were developed by the Committee on Fire Department Organization and adopted by NFPA on a tentative basis in 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1967. In 1968, the entire document was adopted as NFPA 4B, *Recommendations for Management of a Fire Department*. The document was revised, renumbered, and retitled as NFPA 4, *Organization for Fire Services*, in 1971. In 1977, the document was completely revised and renumbered as NFPA 1201.

The 1984 edition, retitled *Recommendations for the Organization for Fire Services*, was a complete revision that incorporated new chapters on emergency management and emergency medical services. At the same time, the existing 13 chapters were reorganized into 18 chapters.

In 1989, NFPA 1202, *Recommendations for Organization of a Fire Department*, and NFPA 1301, *Guide to Public Fire Prevention Criteria*, were integrated into NFPA 1201, and the document was completely revised. New chapters on government responsibility, incident command systems, and hazardous materials were added.

The Technical Committee on Public Fire Service Organization and Operations revised the 1994 edition from a recommended practice to a standard. The chapters were expanded to include updated material that was important to fire department organizations, and the appendix material was expanded to include additional explanatory material.

The 2000 edition of NFPA 1201, with the new title *Standard for Developing Fire Protection Services for the Public*, was a reconfirmation of the 1994 edition. In 1997, NFPA's Standards Council had disbanded the Technical Committee on Public Fire Service Organization and Operations and assigned the project to a new technical committee. The Technical Committee on Emergency Service Organization Risk Management reviewed the 1994 edition and felt that the material contained was still relevant to fire departments. Concurrently, the two new fire service organization and deployment committees, the Technical Committee on Fire and Emergency Service Organization and Deployment — Career and the Technical Committee on Fire and Emergency Service Organization and Deployment — Volunteer, were developing documents that would address fire department issues, especially deployment capabilities, contained in NFPA 1201. Because the proposed documents were under development, the technical committee determined not to revise NFPA 1201 but to hold it in place until the two new technical committees could finish their work.

The 2004 edition has been rewritten to comply with the NFPA *Manual of Style* and to update appropriate material. The title of the document has been changed to *Standard for Providing Emergency Services to the Public* to better reflect the contents of the standard.

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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.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the evaluation, management, and control of risk in emergency service organizations.

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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 mandatory extracts are given in Chapter 2 and those for nonmandatory extracts are given in Annex B. 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 technical committee responsible for the source document.

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

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1* Scope. This standard contains requirements on the structure and operations of emergency service organizations (ESOs).

1.2* Purpose. This standard is intended for the use and guidance of persons charged with providing emergency services to protect lives, property, critical infrastructure, and the environment from the effects of hazards (e.g., fire, medical emergency, hazardous materials, natural disaster, community infrastructure disruption).

1.3* Application. This standard addresses the structure of emergency service systems and organizations involved with the delivery of emergency services that serve a defined area and are generally under the auspices of a governing authority.

1.4* Equivalency. Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this standard.

1.4.1 Technical documentation shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency.

1.4.2 The system, method, or device shall be approved for the intended purpose by the authority having jurisdiction.

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 72®, *National Fire Alarm Code*®, 2002 edition.

NFPA 101®, *Life Safety Code*®, 2003 edition.

NFPA 1033, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator*, 2003 edition.

NFPA 1221, *Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, 2002 edition.

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

NFPA 1710, *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*, 2004 edition.

NFPA 1720, *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments*, 2004 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 Insurance Services Office. ISO Customer Service Division, 545 Washington Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07310-1686.

“Public Protection Classification Service,” *Fire Suppression Rating Schedule*.

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). 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 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

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

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 Aid.

3.3.1.1* Automatic Aid. A plan developed between two or more fire departments for immediate joint response on first alarms. [1142:3.3]

3.3.1.2* Mutual Aid. Reciprocal assistance by emergency services under a prearranged plan. (See also 3.3.1.1, *Automatic Aid*.) [402:3.3]