

NFPA 13E

Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems

2005 Edition



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

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Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems

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This edition of NFPA 13E, *Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Service Training and acted on by NFPA at its November Association Technical Meeting held November 13–17, 2004, in Miami Beach, FL. It was issued by the Standards Council on January 14, 2005, with an effective date of February 7, 2005, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 13E was approved as an American National Standard on February 7, 2005.

Origin and Development of NFPA 13E

In 1933, the NFPA adopted an informative brochure that was prepared by the Committee on Field Practice and entitled “Use of Automatic Sprinklers by Fire Departments.” It was published as a separate pamphlet and reprinted in 1936. The work formerly carried on by the Committee on Field Practice was distributed to a number of new committees in 1953, and at that time the Committee on Standpipes and Outside Protection was given responsibility for the brochure. A subcommittee of the Committees on Standpipes and Outside Protection, Automatic Sprinklers, Fire Department Equipment, and Fire Service Training prepared a revision, “Fire Department Operations in Protected Properties,” which, on recommendation of the four committees, was adopted as an informative report at the NFPA Annual Meeting in 1961. The informative report was published and circulated as a separate pamphlet, No. SPI-1961, but was not included in the annual volumes of the *National Fire Codes*®.

Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems, NFPA 13E, was adopted with minor revisions by the NFPA at its 1966 Annual Meeting on recommendation of the Committee on Standpipes and Outside Protection. It was amended and updated in 1973, 1978, 1983, 1989, 1995, and 2000. The changes made by the Technical Committee on Fire Service Training in the 2000 edition of this document aligned its text with changes made to NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*. In addition, several chapters presenting new pre-incident planning and fireground operational considerations for fire personnel were added.

In the revision process for the 2005 edition, the previous numbering of chapters and paragraphs has changed to reflect requirements in the 2004 edition of the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for all fire service training techniques, operations, and procedures to develop maximum efficiency and proper utilization of available personnel. Such activities can include training guides for fire prevention, fire suppression, and other missions for which the fire service has responsibility.

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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 the recommendations sections of this document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in the informational sections are given in Annex C. 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 should 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 recommended practice provides basic procedures and information for use in fire department operations concerning properties equipped with certain fixed fire protection systems. The fixed systems covered in this recommended practice are interior automatic sprinkler systems, exterior sprinkler systems, and standpipe systems.

1.2 Purpose.

1.2.1 The purpose of this recommended practice is to assist fire departments in developing training programs and planning effective operations for supporting certain fixed fire protection systems in buildings in which fire can occur. Recommended practices are given for the adequate support and use of sprinkler and standpipe systems.

1.2.2 Nothing herein is intended to restrict any jurisdiction from exceeding these minimum suggestions.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this recommended practice and should be considered part of the recommendations of this document.

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

NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 241, *Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations*, 2004 edition.

2.3 Other Publications. (Reserved)

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter apply to the terms used in this recommended practice. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they should be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, is 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 Recommended Practice. A document that is similar in content and structure to a code or standard but that contains only nonmandatory provisions using the word "should" to indicate recommendations in the body of the text.

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

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Standpipe. The vertical portion of the system piping that delivers the water supply for hose connections, and sprinklers on combined systems, vertically from floor to floor. The term *standpipe* can also refer to the horizontal portion of the system piping that delivers the water supply for two or more hose connections, and sprinklers on combined systems, on a single level. [14, 2003]

3.3.2 Yard Hydrant. A hydrant that is not designed to supply a fire department pumper.