

NFPA® 1452

Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Community Risk Reduction

2015 Edition



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NFPA® 1452
Guide for
Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Community Risk
Reduction
2015 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1452, *Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Community Risk Reduction*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Service Training. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 11, 2014, with an effective date of December 1, 2014, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1452 was approved as an American National Standard on December 1, 2014.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1452

This text was developed by the Committee on Fire Service Training and processed in accordance with NFPA Regulations Governing Committee Projects. This guide was a revision of and replacement for the NFPA booklet entitled *How to Train Fire Fighters to Make Dwelling Inspections*. The 2000 edition of this document was a complete revision of the 1993 edition. It included updated statistics and public safety and educational information that had not been included in prior editions.

The 2005 edition of this document was a complete revision of the 2000 edition. The previous numbering of chapters and paragraphs was changed to reflect requirements of the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

The 2010 edition brought terminology up to date, revised Chapter 9, Wildland/Urban Interface, and added a new Chapter 10 on All Hazards Education.

For the 2015 edition, the name has been changed to *Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Community Risk Reduction*, to reflect the change within the guide to an all-hazards approach.



Technical Committee on Fire Service Training

Kenneth W. Richards, Jr., *Chair*
Old Mystic Fire Department, CT [E]

Wesley E. Barbour, CrossBar International LLC, NY [SE]
John P. Brown, Nassau County Fire Service Academy,
NY [U]
W. Edward Buchanan, Jr., Hanover Fire EMS
Department, VA [U]
James Cannell, Columbus Ohio Division of Fire, OH [L]
Rep. Columbus Firefighters Union
Rick Egelin, Fireblast 451 Incorporated, CA [M]
Mike Gagliano, Seattle Fire Department, WA [E]
William E. Glover, High Temperature Linings (HTL),
VA [M]
Cortez Lawrence, U.S. Department of Homeland
Security, MD [SE]
Roger M. LeBoeuf, Elliott, LeBoeuf & McElwain, VA [SE]
Gordon L. Lohmeyer, Texas A&M Engineering Extension
Service, TX [U]
Lavarn E. Lucas, Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue,
SC [E]
Daniel Madrzykowski, National Institute of Standards
& Technology, MD [RT]
F. Patrick Marlatt, Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute,
MD [E]

Kevin Munson, Jr., West Hartford Fire Department,
CT [U]
Brent Norwine, CAL-FIRE/Riverside County Fire
Department, CA [U]
Ryan O'Donnell, BullEx, Inc., NY [M]
William E. Peterson, Kissimmee, FL [SE]
Rep. International Fire Marshals Association
James E. Podolske, Jr., U.S. Department of the Air Force,
FL [U]
Robert E. Raheb, EAAC, Inc., NY [SE]
Daniel N. Rossos, Oregon Department of Public Safety
Standards & Training, OR [E]
Daniel D. Shaw, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue
Department, MD [U]
Gary A. Simpson, E. D. Bullard Company, KY [M]
Steven H. Weinstein, Honeywell Safety Products, CA [M]
Phil Welch, Gastonia Fire Department, NC [U]
Steven J. Williamson, UTC/Kidde Fire Trainers, Inc.,
NJ [M]
Corey Wilson, Portland Fire & Rescue, OR [E]
Michael L. Young, Volunteer Firemen's Insurance
Services, Inc., PA [I]

Alternates

John Blackburn, BullEx, Inc., NY [M]
(Alt. to R. O'Donnell)
David M. Britton, Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue,
SC [E]
(Alt. to L. E. Lucas)
Derrick S. Clouston, North Carolina Department of
Insurance, NC [E]
(Alt. to NC Dept. of Insurance Rep.)
Roland Fredrickson, City of Corona Fire Department,
CA [U]
(Alt. to B. Norwine)
Chris H. Hubbard, Hanover Fire EMS Department,
VA [U]
(Alt. to W. E. Buchanan, Jr.)
William F. Jenaway, Volunteer Firemen's Insurance
Services, Inc., PA [I]
(Alt. to M. L. Young)
Jeremy D. Jones, Elliott, LeBoeuf & McElwain, PA [SE]
(Alt. to R. M. LeBoeuf)

Steven C. Luftig, UTC/Kidde Fire Trainers, Inc., NJ [M]
(Alt. to S. J. Williamson)
Douglas J. Mitchell, Jr., Fire Department City of New
York, NY [U]
(Alt. to D. D. Shaw)
Denis G. Onieal, U.S. Department of Homeland Security,
MD [SE]
(Alt. to C. Lawrence)
J. Ron Peddy, Texas A&M Engineering Extension
Service, TX [U]
(Alt. to G. L. Lohmeyer)
Mark A. Rutherford, Gastonia Fire Department, NC [U]
(Alt. to P. Welch)
Michael A. Wieder, Fire Protection Publications, OK [M]
Michael Yacovino, Canton, CT Fire Marshals Office,
CT [U]
(Alt. to K. Munson, Jr.)

Steven F. Sawyer, NFPA Staff Liaison

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.

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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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NFPA 1452

Guide for

Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct
Community Risk Reduction

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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 advisory sections of this document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in the informational sections are given in Annex B. 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 should 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. The intent of this document is to provide fire department training officers or other fire service personnel with a guide for the establishment of a community risk reduction program for residential occupancies.

1.1.1 To be effective and to adequately deal with local fire problems, the solution to a particular fire safety problem should be developed locally. This document is intended to be a basic guide to possible elements for inclusion in a locally developed program.

1.1.2 Because the majority of fire deaths occur in residential occupancies, it is essential that community risk reduction programs become an integral part of the total fire and life safety programs in a community. This guide can be applied to both rural and urban communities. Principles contained in this document can be applied to single-family as well as multifamily residential occupancies, such as apartments, town houses, and condominiums, and manufactured housing, as local conditions dictate.

1.1.3 This document is not intended to be a training manual or a fire inspection manual, but rather to serve as a guide for establishing a locally prepared community risk reduction program geared to address the specific problem(s) faced by the local fire service organization. By utilizing fire suppression personnel in this capacity, fire departments can achieve some or all of the following benefits:

(1) Increased productivity

- (2) Increased community contact
- (3) Familiarization with residential properties
- (4) Encourage life safety practices
- (5) Prevent fires
- (6) Prevent injuries
- (7) Decrease crime
- (8) Work with diverse cultures in a place of their comfort

1.1.4 Residents of the community also benefit from a survey program by becoming aware of the following issues:

- (1) Fire and life safety in the home
- (2) Protective measures to improve the quality of life
- (3) Public safety and awareness
- (4) Existing conditions and life safety practices

1.1.5 Specific sections of this guide can be included or eliminated as local conditions dictate.

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this guide is to assist fire department personnel in designing and implementing a community risk reduction plan as part of a community-wide fire and life safety education program to reduce the burden of fire incidents, injuries and deaths, crime, and property losses in the jurisdiction served.

1.2.1* Fire incidence and losses continue to challenge all communities in the United States. Fire is a leading cause of injuries and deaths in the home, and residential fires account for approximately 80 percent of all fire incidents and deaths each year.

1.2.2 The local fire department is responsible for the protection of life and property from fire and related threats. A major part of that responsibility is public fire and life safety education. Educating citizens about fire and life safety will shift some degree of all-hazards prevention responsibility to each person in the community, thus making fire department personnel more effective in delivering a full range of fire protection services. Basic information for the public should include emergency behaviors in case of fire; the proper installation, maintenance, and use of smoke alarms; carbon monoxide (CO) detectors; residential sprinklers; radon detection; crime prevention; and a residential all-hazards action planning effort. An effective home survey community risk reduction program is a primary method of all-hazards prevention, with proven success in reducing loss of life, injury, and property damage from fire and other risks and hazards present in the community.

1.2.3* In addition to reducing loss of life and property damage, an effective home fire and life safety program can generate the following opportunities, which benefit the department and the entire community:

- (1) Publicizing year-round community programs and activities (fostering the perception that citizens who support the fire department are getting more for their money in terms of a comprehensive fire service organization)
- (2) Meeting residents of the community on a one-to-one basis and distributing various fire prevention literature, telephone stickers, and other fire safety information
- (3) Installing smoke alarms where none currently exist in homes occupied by high-risk residents
- (4) Answering specific fire protection or all-hazards fire and life safety inquiries
- (5) Allowing fire fighters to become better acquainted with street names and layouts, hydrant and water supply locations, community development, and home construction, as well as pre-fire planning
- (6) Using inquiries (4) and other useful information for discussion during training sessions



- (7) Using fire apparatus regularly, thereby improving driver proficiency
- (8) Increasing the productivity of fire fighters, specifically in fire service-related duties
- (9) Assisting the professional development of fire fighters engaged in the program's activities
- (10) Allowing the fire service to become acquainted with construction types, interior designs, avenues of fire spread, and locations of various concealed spaces (e.g., determining the entrance to attics and crawl spaces prior to an emergency)
- (11) Improving fire service personal accountability and mutual trust with community residents
- (12) Providing "all-hazards" information based on issues identified with local data
- (13) Creating the potential for a community partnership with the police department to provide crime prevention information to residents

1.2.4 As worthwhile as the fringe benefits of 1.2.3 are, the most important responsibility is conducting community risk reduction activities in order to reduce fire and life safety hazards and to provide effective public all-hazards prevention education throughout the community.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this guide 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 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 13D, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 70®, *National Electrical Code*®, 2014 edition.

NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 211, *Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 720, *Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 1144, *Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire*, 2013 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

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

2.4 References for Extracts in Advisory Sections.

NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 720, *Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 1144, *Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire*, 2013 edition.

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter apply to the terms used in this guide. 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 Guide. A document that is advisory or informative in nature and that contains only nonmandatory provisions. A guide may contain mandatory statements such as when a guide can be used, but the document as a whole is not suitable for adoption into law.

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

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Carbon Monoxide Detector. A device having a sensor that responds to carbon monoxide gas that is connected to an alarm control unit. [720, 2015]

3.3.2* Community Risk Reduction (CRR). A practice or approach for providing all-hazards protection to a community.

3.3.3 Home. One or more rooms arranged for complete, independent housekeeping purposes, with space for eating, living, and sleeping; facilities for cooking; and provisions for sanitation.

3.3.4* Radon. A colorless and odorless radioactive gas that is derived from the decay of uranium.

3.3.5 Smoke Alarm. A single or multiple-station alarm responsive to smoke. [72, 2013]

3.3.6* Structure Ignition Zone. The area around a specific structure and associated accessory structures, including all vegetation that contains potential ignition sources and fuels that can affect ignition potential during an intense wildland fire. [1144, 2013]

3.3.7 Wildland Fire. An unplanned and uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, at times involving structures. [1144, 2013]

3.3.8* Wildland/Urban Interface. The presence of structures in 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. [1144, 2013]

Chapter 4 Program Benefits

4.1 Material Distribution. Fire and life safety visits to homes provide the fire department with one of the best means of delivering public all-hazards prevention education through direct contact with residents of the community. Maximum effectiveness can be accomplished through the distribution of life safety all-hazards prevention literature and education directed at the local fire and life safety problems. Fire fighters can explain specific items in the literature and answer questions that homeowners might have on specific fire department community risk reduction campaigns. Many fire departments find it advantageous to print special cards, certificates, or door stickers to recognize homeowners whose homes are found to be in good, all-hazards safe condition.

4.2* Support of Other Programs. Personal visits by fire fighters to homes for community risk reduction and all-hazards prevention generally improve the fire department's public image in the community. The program enables fire fighters to install smoke alarms, distribute information, and provide teaching on the use and placement of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors and the dangers of radon, the benefits of residential sprinklers, home fire escape planning, safety hints for babysitters, and a variety of other community risk reduction safety-related subjects. Fire fighters can supplement the residential community risk reduction visits by giving homeowners and occupants telephone stickers or cards showing the emergency telephone numbers and procedures for sending a fire alarm. Additionally, the community risk reduction program can identify the increasing numbers of unregulated day care and adult care centers in residential occupancies.

4.3 Continuing Community Risk Reduction Programs. In the planning stages of a community risk reduction program, the fire chief and fire officers should look beyond the immediate short-term benefits, anticipating its extension and continuation as a permanent program. Although the initial home community risk reduction activities can be a resounding success, the fire department should continue to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the program and its continued ability to address the current local fire and life safety problems. The fire department should realize that planning, implementation, and evaluation processes should be a continuous cycle that reacts to the varying needs of the community. The experiences of fire departments that have initiated successful community risk reduction programs have led them to retain these activities year after year. The success of these programs has, in some communities, resulted in a dramatic reduction in life and property loss from fire and other community hazards.

Chapter 5 Planning the Community Risk Reduction Program

5.1 General.

5.1.1 Careful planning and preparation are essential if a community risk reduction program is to be successful.

5.1.2 The chief of the fire department should demonstrate a commitment to the planning and execution of the program. Every department member is responsible for educating the people of the community about the benefits of the program. The items to consider when the program is planned are presented in Sections 5.2 through 5.7.

5.2 Publicity. Community risk reduction should be "sold" to the public. The fire department should use its website and department vehicles to actively promote community risk reduction efforts. Homeowners and other residential occupants should be fully informed of the value of community risk reduction activities, including how such activities can save lives, reduce injuries, and protect their homes from all hazards. Education can be accomplished by enlisting the assistance of local radio and television stations and newspapers to inform the public of the purpose and benefits of the community risk reduction program activities. The local chamber of commerce, community service clubs, church groups, fraternal orders, and schools should be contacted for additional program support. Generally, most of these organizations are glad to cooperate. Careful planning and widespread community support will increase the overall success of these programs.

5.3 Training.

5.3.1 One of the most important phases of any training program is teaching fire fighters to apply the knowledge gained to a practical situation. Fire fighters should be able to recognize hazards of all types and make proper recommendations for correction. They should also be able to explain and offer reasons for the corrections suggested. For example, a fire fighter should be prepared to recommend the installation of safety devices, such as smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and carbon monoxide (CO) and radon detectors, and to specify proper locations for their installation. Fire fighters should be knowledgeable in recognizing fire and life safety hazards and be technically informed about the recommended methods for their removal. Fire fighters should project an image and attitude that leaves a positive, lasting impression.

5.3.2 Visual and mechanical training aids are extremely useful to achieving these goals in training fire fighters. For example, color slides showing typical fire and life safety hazards and faulty installations should help fire fighters recognize hazards. It is suggested that training officers seek the aid of technically qualified individuals, such as building inspectors and electrical inspectors, to assist in instructing fire fighters in the use and application of local codes and building regulations pertaining to fire protection and fire and life safety hazards prevention.

5.3.3* Fire fighters should be thoroughly trained before being sent out on their own to conduct community risk reduction activities. Training should consist of classroom instruction and application of knowledge and principles in the field of fire and life safety hazards prevention.

5.3.3.1 Classroom instruction should include the following:

- (1) Proper methods of introduction and explanation of program rationale for the homeowner or building occupant
- (2) Proper methods of securing permission from the homeowner to perform the home visit (homeowner allowed to refuse entry)
- (3) Common fire and life safety hazards that can be expected to be found in a home
- (4) Provisions of the local fire and building code that are applicable to homes (Inspections generally should be made as a courtesy, not because of fire and building code regulations.)

5.3.3.2 Training officers should take fire fighters into the field for supervised on-the-job training before fire fighters are allowed to perform all-hazard visits on their own. This procedure allows fire fighters to build confidence in their visits under the supervision of an experienced individual. Field visits with an experienced training officer should be continued until the training officer is sure the fire fighters are competent and at ease when they deal with the public. Home risk reduction activities should be conducted by at least two fire fighters. However, the presence of too many fire fighters at a single home could be perceived as an authoritative force, causing a negative occupant reaction to any risk reduction activities.

5.4 Program Duration. Community risk reduction visits of homes should be done on a year-round basis. The program should contain elements to be emphasized during specific times of the year, such as access to fire hydrants or heating equipment problems during winter months. Summertime block parties are a good time to interact with and educate residents on fire and life safety matters.