

NFPA®

1452

**Guide for
Training Fire Service Personnel
to Conduct Community Risk
Reduction for Residential
Occupancies**

2020



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NFPA® 1452

Guide for

Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Community Risk Reduction for Residential Occupancies

2020 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1452, *Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Community Risk Reduction for Residential Occupancies*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Prevention Organization and Deployment. It was issued by the Standards Council on April 28, 2019, with an effective date of May 18, 2019, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1452 was approved as an American National Standard on May 18, 2019.

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, *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 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 Fire Safety, and added a new Chapter 10 on All Hazards Education.

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

Much of NFPA 1452 was reorganized for the 2020 edition. Many redundant and irrelevant details were removed, and many informational points were abridged or consolidated to make chapters more concise. Some emerging issues and technologies were added into common hazards that exist around a residential occupancy. In addition, terminology was changed throughout the guide for consistency with related standards and professional field terminology. This includes changing the title to *Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Community Risk Reduction for Residential Occupancies*. Annex language was added to inform the user that while the title and chapters refer to fire service personnel, the guide can be used and applied by any organization that conducts community risk reduction programs in residential occupancies.

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the organization, operation, deployment, and evaluation of code enforcement, public fire and life safety education, plan review, and fire investigation operations. They shall also have responsibility for documents related to developing the process to conduct Community Risk Assessments and Reduction Programs.

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2020 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. 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 and extracted publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex B.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1* Scope. This guide identifies the elements needed to establish a community risk reduction program to address local risks for residential occupancies, including but not limited to, program benefits, program planning, common hazards, life safety considerations, wildland/urban interface, and all-hazards education.

- Δ 1.1.1 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, condominiums, and manufactured housing, as local conditions dictate.

1.1.2 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 organizations.

- 1.1.3 Specific sections of this guide can be included or eliminated as local conditions dictate. There may be local ordinances or other regulations that mandate compliance with one or more portions of this guide.

Δ 1.2 **Purpose.** The purpose of this guide is to assist in designing and implementing a training program for risk reduction for residential occupancies.

Δ 1.2.1 An effective community risk reduction program is the primary method of prevention and mitigation of all hazards, with proven success in reducing loss of life, injury, and property damage in the community.

Δ 1.2.2* In addition to reducing loss of life and property damage, an effective residential fire and life safety program can generate the following opportunities:

- (1) Meeting residents of the community on a one-to-one basis and distributing various fire prevention literature and other fire safety information
- (2) Installing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms where none currently exist, are outdated, or are not functioning
- (3) Engaging with the community in non-emergency settings
- (4) Allowing fire service personnel to become better acquainted with street names and layouts, hydrant and water supply locations, community development, and home construction, as well as pre-incident planning
- (5) Enhancing the professional development of fire service personnel engaged in the program's activities
- (6) Improving the fire service relationship with community residents
- (7) Creating the potential for a community partnerships

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*, 2018 edition.
NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*®, 2019 edition.

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

NFPA 1300, *Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development*, 2020 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*®, 2019 edition.

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

NFPA 1144, *Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire*, 2018 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 Alarm. A single- or multiple-station alarm responsive to carbon monoxide (CO). [72, 2019]

3.3.2* Community Risk Reduction (CRR). A process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact.

3.3.3* Home Ignition Zone. The area around a home and associated accessory structures, including all vegetation that contains potential ignition sources and fuels that can affect ignition potential during an intense wildland fire.

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

3.3.5* Residential Occupancy. An occupancy that provides sleeping accommodations for purposes other than health care or detention and correctional. [101, 2018]

3.3.6 Smoke Alarm. A single- or multiple-station alarm responsive to smoke. [72, 2019]

3.3.7 Wildland Fire. An unplanned and uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, including any structures or other improvements thereon. [1144, 2018]

3.3.8* Wildland/Urban Interface. An area where wildland fuels abut structures, with a clear line of demarcation between residential, business, and public structures and wildland fuels. [1144, 2018]

Chapter 4 Program Benefits

4.1 Education.

4.1.1* Conducting home safety surveys in residential occupancies provides one of the best means of delivering education through direct contact with residents of the community. Maximum effectiveness can be accomplished through educational programs directed at the local fire and life safety problems. Fire service personnel can explain specific items in the literature and answer questions that residents might have on specific community risk reduction (CRR) campaigns. Many organizations find it advantageous to print special cards, certificates, or door stickers to recognize residents whose homes are found to be in good, all-hazards safe condition.

4.1.2 Educational materials and programs can be used to deliver risk reduction training, and may include the following:

- (1) Common fire causes and prevention
- (2) Importance of fire extinguishers and how to use them
- (3) Disaster preparedness
- (4) Emergency planning and evacuation
- (5) Importance and purpose of built-in fire protection features
- (6) Water safety and drowning prevention
- (7) Fall prevention
- (8) Electrical safety

4.2 Organizational Community Image. Home safety surveys in residential occupancies for community risk reduction and all-hazards prevention may improve the organization's public image as a result of the interactions with members of the community.

4.3 Identification of Hazardous Conditions. Conducting home safety surveys presents an opportunity for fire service personnel to identify safety hazards and refer them to the appropriate agency.

4.4 Continuing Community Risk Reduction Programs.

4.4.1 In the planning stages of a community risk reduction program, the AHJ should look beyond the immediate short-term benefits, anticipating its expansion into a community risk reduction plan as specified in NFPA 1300.

4.4.2 By utilizing fire service personnel in this capacity, organizations can achieve some or all of the following benefits:

- (1) Increased productivity
- (2) Increased community contact
- (3) Familiarization with residential properties
- (4) Encouragement of life safety practices
- (5) Fire prevention
- (6) Injury prevention
- (7) Decreased crime
- (8) More work with diverse cultures in a place of their comfort

4.4.3 Residents of the community also benefit by becoming aware of the following issues:

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