

NFPA 1521

Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer

2002 Edition



NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA 1521

Standard for

Fire Department Safety Officer

2002 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Service Occupational Safety 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 1521 was approved as an American National Standard on July 19, 2002.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1521

The first edition of the *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer* was adopted by the National Fire Protection Association at the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, on May 16–19, 1977. A complete revision was completed by the Technical Committee on Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health in 1986 and became the second edition in June 1987. The first two editions were identified as NFPA 1501.

In 1992, a complete revision was made, and the identifying number of the standard was changed from NFPA 1501 to NFPA 1521 to fit in the numbering plan for fire service occupational safety and health documents.

In 1997, in the fourth revision to NFPA 1521, the committee focused on adding text to differentiate between the roles of incident safety officer (ISO) and health and safety officer (HSO). Since the 1992 edition, numerous questions had arisen concerning the roles and responsibilities, qualifications, and training for each of these positions. The National Fire Academy, with assistance from NFPA staff and technical committee members, developed two courses for the fire service that outlined the differences in these two positions within a fire department. These courses provided an excellent opportunity for the fire service to train personnel who were designated for these critical positions. Consequently, these courses referenced the applicable requirements within this standard. This edition also included sample forms to assist the user with fire station inspections. Additionally, this document showed how each of these positions fits into a fire department's risk management plan.

This fifth edition of NFPA 1521 is a reconfirmation. The technical committee members have extracted sections of this document and inserted them in both NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, and NFPA 1561, *Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System*. For now, this document and the companion series for fire service occupational safety and medical and health documents continue to provide a platform from which fire departments can enhance and improve fire fighter safety.

Technical Committee on Fire Service Occupational Safety

John A. Sharry, *Chair*

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, CA [E]

Donald Aldridge, Lion Apparel, Inc., OH [M]
Glenn P. Benarick, Fairfax County Fire Department, VA [U]
 Rep. NFPA Fire Service Section
Mary S. Bogucki, Yale University, CT [SE]
Angelo M. Catalano, New York State Association of Fire Districts, NY [U]
Dennis R. Childress, Orange County Fire Authority, CA [U]
Bradd K. Clark, Sand Springs Fire Department, OK [U]
 Rep. International Fire Service Training Association
Dominic J. Colletti, Hale Products, Inc., PA [M]
 Rep. Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association
Scott L. Davidson, Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services, Inc. (VFIS), PA [I]
Phil J. Eckhardt, Mine Safety Appliances Company, PA [M]
 Rep. Industrial Safety Equipment Association
K. R. Ethridge, Texas Commission on Fire Protection, TX [E]
Don R. Forrest, United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, CA [L]
 Rep. International Association of Fire Fighters
James C. Goodbread, U.S. Air Force, OK [U]
Curt T. Grieve, Sacramento, CA [SE]

Tom A. Hillenbrand, Underwriters Laboratories Inc., IL [RT]
Jonathan D. Kipp, Primex3, NH [I]
Buck Latapie, USDA Forest Service, DC [E]
John LeCuyer, Aurora Fire Department, CO [L]
George L. Maier, III, New York City Fire Department, NY [U]
Richard A. Marinucci, Farmington Hills Fire Department, MI [E]
 Rep. International Association of Fire Chiefs
Roger A. McGary, Montgomery County Division of Fire & Rescue Services, MD [U]
 Rep. International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Robert D. Neamy, Los Angeles City Fire Department, CA [U]
William E. Perrin, Montana Fire Training School, MT [SE]
 Rep. National Association of State Directors of Fire Training & Education
Neil Rossman, Rossman, Rossman & Eschelbacher, MA [SE]
Philip C. Stittleburg, LaFarge Fire Department, WI [U]
 Rep. National Volunteer Fire Council
Grace Yamane, San Diego Fire and Life Safety Services, CA [L]
 Rep. Women in the Fire Service

Alternates

Patricia L. Doler, Santa Clara County Fire Protection District, CA [L]
 (Alt. to G. Yamane)
Craig A. Fry, Los Angeles City Fire Department, CA [U]
 (Alt. to R. D. Neamy)
Terry G. Glunt, U.S. Fire Administration, MD [SE]
 (Vot. Alt. to USFA Rep.)
Jim Johannessen, Underwriters Laboratories Inc., PA [RT]
 (Alt. to T. A. Hillenbrand)
Scott D. Kerwood, Orange County Emergency Services District #1, TX [E]
 (Alt. to R. A. Marinucci)
Murrey E. Loflin, Virginia Beach Fire Department, VA [U]
 (Alt. to G. P. Benarick)
David A. Love, Jr., Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services, Inc. (VFIS), PA [I]
 (Alt. to S. L. Davidson)

Daniel J. Martinelli, Aurora Fire Department, CO [L]
 (Alt. to J. LeCuyer)
Ron C. Miller, Fairbank, IA [U]
 (Alt. to P. C. Stittleburg)
Gary L. Neilson, Reno Fire Department, NV [E]
 (Vot. Alt. to FDSOA Rep.)
William E. Newcomb, TFG/North Safety Products, RI [M]
 (Alt. to P. J. Eckhart)
Stephen E. Norris, United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, CA [L]
 (Alt. to D. R. Forrest)
Richard S. Pike, Wantagh Fire District, NY [U]
 (Alt. to A. M. Catalano)
Andrew E. Pompe, Lion Apparel, Inc., PA [M]
 (Alt. to D. Aldridge)
Joseph F. Williams, Weldon Technologies, Inc., OH [M]
 (Alt. to D. J. Colletti)

Stephen N. Foley, NFPA Staff Liaison

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on occupational safety in the working environment of the fire service; and safety in the proper use of fire department vehicles, tools, equipment, protective clothing, and protective breathing apparatus.

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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