

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

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This edition of 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*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire and Emergency Service Organization and Deployment — Career 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 1710 was approved as an American National Standard on August 5, 2004.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1710

In 2001, the first edition of NFPA 1710 was issued. The development of that benchmark standard was the result of a considerable amount of hard work and tenacity by the Technical Committee members and the organizations they represented. That standard was the first organized approach to defining levels of service, deployment capabilities, and staffing levels for substantially career fire departments. Research work and empirical studies in North America were used by the Committee as a basis for developing response times and resource capabilities for those services, as identified by the fire department.

Following the issuance of the first edition, the NFPA Standards Council asked the Technical Committee to begin the revision process for NFPA 1710 so that a revised standard would be considered at the May 2004 NFPA membership meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Committee met in the fall of 2001 and began the process of reviewing and revising the first edition of NFPA 1710. The Committee formed several Task Groups to look at various aspects of the document. The Committee met and reviewed the work of the Task Groups and the public proposals that had been received, and in the summer of 2003, the Committee's Report on Proposals was released for public review and comment. Based on the Committee's consideration and review of the public input received, this edition of the standard was developed.

The work done by the Committee provides the user with a template for developing an implementation plan on the standard. Most important, it provides the body politic and the citizens a true picture of the risks in their community and the fire department's capabilities to respond to and manage those risks.

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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 organization, operation, deployment, and evaluation of substantially all career public fire protection and emergency medical services.

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Changes other than editorial are indicated by a vertical rule beside the paragraph, table, or figure in which the change occurred. These rules are included as an aid to the user in identifying changes from the previous edition. Where one or more complete paragraphs have been deleted, the deletion is indicated by a bullet (•) between the paragraphs that remain.

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.

1.1.1 This standard contains minimum requirements relating to the organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency medical operations, and special operations to the public by substantially all career fire departments.

1.1.2 The requirements address functions and objectives of fire department emergency service delivery, response capabilities, and resources.

1.1.3 This standard also contains minimum requirements for managing resources and systems, such as health and safety, incident management, training, communications, and pre-incident planning.

1.1.4 This standard addresses the strategic and system issues involving the organization, operation, and deployment of a fire department and does not address tactical operations at a specific emergency incident.

1.2 Purpose.

1.2.1* The purpose of this standard is to specify the minimum criteria addressing the effectiveness and efficiency of the career public fire suppression operations, emergency medical service, and special operations delivery in protecting the citizens of the jurisdiction and the occupational safety and health of fire department employees.

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

1.3* Equivalency. Nothing in this standard is intended to prohibit the use of systems, methods, or approaches of equivalent or superior performance to those prescribed by this standard. Technical documentation shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency.

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 403, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services at Airports*, 2003 edition.

NFPA 472, *Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 1143, *Standard for Wildland Fire Management*, 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 1670, *Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents*, 2004 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 U.S. Government Publications. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.120, "Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response."

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.146, "Permit-Required Confined Space."

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. [402:3.3]

3.3.2* Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting (ARFF) Vehicle. A vehicle intended to carry rescue and fire-fighting equipment for rescuing occupants and combating fires in aircraft at, or in the vicinity of, an airport. [1002:3.3]

3.3.3* Airport Fire Department Personnel. Personnel under the operational jurisdiction of the chief of the airport fire department assigned to aircraft rescue and fire fighting. [403:3.3]

3.3.4* Alarm. A signal or message from a person or device indicating the existence of a fire, medical emergency, or other situation that requires fire department action.

3.3.5* Apparatus. A motor-driven vehicle or group of vehicles designed and constructed for the purpose of fighting fires. [1143:3.3]

3.3.5.1 Fire Apparatus. A fire department emergency vehicle used for rescue, fire suppression, or other specialized functions.

3.3.5.2 Quint Apparatus. A fire department emergency vehicle with a permanently mounted fire pump, a water tank, a hose storage area, an aerial device with a permanently mounted waterway, and a complement of ground ladders.

3.3.5.3 Specialized Apparatus. A fire department emergency vehicle that provides support services at emergency scenes, including command vehicles, rescue vehicles, hazardous material containment vehicles, air supply vehicles, electrical generation and lighting vehicles, or vehicles used to transport equipment and personnel.

3.3.6* Company. A group of members: (1) Under the direct supervision of an officer; (2) Trained and equipped to perform assigned tasks; (3) Usually organized and identified as engine companies, ladder companies, rescue companies, squad companies, or multi-functional companies; (4) Operating with one piece of fire apparatus (engine, ladder truck, elevating platform, quint, rescue, squad, ambulance) except where multiple apparatus are assigned that are dispatched and arrive together, continuously operate together, and are managed by a single company officer; (5) Arriving at the incident scene on fire apparatus. [1500:3.3]

3.3.7 Emergency Incident. Any situation to which an emergency services organization responds to deliver emergency services and other forms of hazard control and mitigation.

3.3.8 Emergency Medical Care. The provision of treatment to patients, including first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic life support (First Responder or EMT level), advanced life support (Paramedic level), and other medical procedures that occur prior to arrival at a hospital or other health care facility. [1581:1.3]

3.3.9 Fire Chief. The highest ranking officer in charge of a fire department. [1201:3.3]

3.3.10 Fire Department Member. See 3.3.25, Member.

3.3.11 Fire Department Vehicle. Any vehicle, including fire apparatus, operated by a fire department. [1002:3.3]

3.3.12 Fire Fighting.

3.3.12.1* Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting. The fire-fighting actions taken to rescue persons and to control or extinguish fire involving or adjacent to aircraft on the ground. [1500:3.3]

3.3.12.2* Marine Rescue and Fire Fighting. The fire-fighting action taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using normal and emergency routes for egress.

3.3.12.3 Structural Fire Fighting. The activities of rescue, fire suppression, and property conservation in buildings, enclosed structures, aircraft interiors, vehicles, vessels, aircraft, or like properties that are involved in a fire or emergency situation.

3.3.13 Fire Protection. Methods of providing for fire control or fire extinguishment. [801:3.3]

3.3.14* Fire Suppression. The activities involved in controlling and extinguishing fires. [1500:3.3]

3.3.15* First Responder (EMS). Functional provision of initial assessment (i.e., airway, breathing, and circulatory systems) and basic first-aid intervention, including CPR and automatic external defibrillator (AED) capability.

3.3.16 Forcible Entry. Techniques used by fire personnel to gain entry into buildings, vehicles, aircraft, or other areas of confinement when normal means of entry are locked or blocked.

3.3.17* Hazard. The potential for harm or damage to people, property, or the environment.

3.3.18 Hazardous Material. A substance that presents an unusual danger to persons due to properties of toxicity, chemical reactivity, or decomposition, corrosivity, explosion or detonation, etiological hazards, or similar properties.

3.3.19* High Hazard Occupancy. Areas that have high hazard buildings, materials, processes, or contents.

3.3.20 Incident Commander. The fire department member in overall command of an emergency incident.

3.3.21* Incident Management System (IMS). An organized system of roles, responsibilities, and standard operating procedures used to manage emergency operations.

3.3.22 Initial Full Alarm Assignment. Those personnel, equipment, and resources ordinarily dispatched upon notification of a structural fire.

3.3.23 Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC). Two members of the initial attack crew who are assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members.

3.3.24 Life Support.

3.3.24.1 Advanced Life Support (ALS). Emergency medical treatment beyond basic life support level as defined by the medical authority having jurisdiction. [1500:3.3]

3.3.24.2* Basic Life Support (BLS). Emergency medical treatment at a level as defined by the medical authority having jurisdiction. [1500:3.3]

3.3.25* Member. A person involved in performing the duties and responsibilities of a fire department, under the auspices of the organization. [1500:3.3]

3.3.26 Officer.

3.3.26.1* Company Officer. A supervisor of a crew/company of personnel.

3.3.26.2 Incident Safety Officer. An individual appointed to respond or assigned at an incident scene by the incident commander to perform the duties and responsibilities of that position as part of the command staff.

3.3.26.3* Supervisory Chief Officer. A member whose responsibility is to assume command through a formalized transfer of command process and to allow company officers to directly supervise personnel assigned to them.

3.3.27 Operations.

3.3.27.1 Emergency Operations. Activities of the fire department relating to rescue, fire suppression, emergency medical care, and special operations, including response to the scene of the incident and all functions performed at the scene. [1500:3.3]

3.3.27.2* Special Operations. Those emergency incidents to which the fire department responds that require specific and advanced training and specialized tools and equipment. [1500:3.3]

3.3.28 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). A facility in which 9-1-1 calls are answered, either directly or through re-routing. [1221:3.3]

3.3.29* Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC). A dedicated crew of fire fighters who are assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members.

3.3.30 Related Duties. Any and all functions that fire department members can be called upon to perform in the execution of their duties.

3.3.31 Rescue. Those activities directed at locating endangered persons at an emergency incident, removing those persons from danger, treating the injured, and providing for transport to an appropriate health care facility. [1500:3.3]

3.3.32* Staff Aide. A fire fighter or fire officer assigned to a supervisory chief officer to assist with the logistical, tactical, and accountability functions of incident, division, or sector command.

3.3.33 Standard Operating Procedure. A written organizational directive that establishes or prescribes specific operational or administrative methods to be followed routinely for the performance of designated operations or actions. [1521:3.3]

3.3.34 Sustained Attack. The activities of fire confinement, control, and extinguishment that are beyond those assigned to the initial responding companies.

3.3.35 Tactical Considerations. Specific fire-fighting objectives that are intended to support the strategy of the incident.

3.3.36 Team. Two or more individuals who have been assigned a common task and are in communication with each other, coordinate their activities as a work group, and support the safety of one another. [1081:3.3]

3.3.37 Time.

3.3.37.1 Alarm Time. The point of receipt of the emergency alarm at the public safety answering point to the point where sufficient information is known to the dispatcher to deploy applicable units to the emergency.

3.3.37.2 Call Processing Time. See 3.3.37.3, Dispatch Time.

3.3.37.3* Dispatch Time. The point of receipt of the emergency alarm at the public safety answering point to the point where sufficient information is known to the dispatcher and applicable units are notified of the emergency.

3.3.37.4 Response Time. The travel time that begins when units are en route to the emergency incident and ends when units arrive at the scene.

3.3.37.5 Turnout Time. The time beginning when units acknowledge notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time.

Chapter 4 Organization

4.1 Fire Department Organizational Statement.

4.1.1* The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall maintain a written statement or policy that establishes the following:

- (1) Existence of the fire department
- (2) Services that the fire department is required to provide
- (3) Basic organizational structure
- (4) Expected number of fire department members
- (5) Functions that fire department members are expected to perform

4.1.2* The fire department organizational statement shall provide service delivery objectives, including specific response time objectives for each major service component (i.e., fire suppression, EMS, special operations, aircraft rescue and fire fighting, marine rescue and fire fighting, and/or wildland fire fighting) and objectives for the percentage of responses that meet the response time objectives.

4.1.2.1 The fire department shall establish the following time objectives:

- (1) One minute (60 seconds) for turnout time
- (2)*Four minutes (240 seconds) or less for the arrival of the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident and/or 8 minutes (480 seconds) or less for the deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression incident
- (3) Four minutes (240 seconds) or less for the arrival of a unit with first responder or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident
- (4) Eight minutes (480 seconds) or less for the arrival of an advanced life support unit at an emergency medical incident, where this service is provided by the fire department