

NFPA®

418

Standard for Heliports

2016



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NFPA®418

Standard for

Heliports

2016 Edition

This edition of NFPA 418, *Standard for Heliports*, was prepared by the Committee on Helicopter Facilities. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 14, 2015, with an effective date of December 4, 2015, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 418 was approved as an American National Standard on December 4, 2015.

Origin and Development of NFPA 418

The development of NFPA 418 began in 1965 after the NFPA Sectional Committee on Aircraft Hangars and Airport Facilities was asked to provide guidance on the construction and protection of elevated heliports. Earlier work had been done by the NFPA Sectional Committee on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting with regard to fire protection in the event of accidents during flight operations, and the NFPA Sectional Committee on Aircraft Fuel Servicing developed the safeguards needed for the prevention of fire accidents during fueling operations at such locations.

In 1967, a *Tentative Standard on Elevated Heliport Construction and Protection* was approved at the NFPA Annual Meeting. The 1968 edition was a revision of the tentative standard, including a change in title, and the 1973 edition was a complete revision of the 1968 edition. The 1979 edition contained further amendments. The 1990 edition added chapters for land-based facilities and offshore heliports, and the title was changed from *Standard on Rooftop Heliport Construction and Protection* to *Standard for Heliports*.

The standard was revised for the 1995 edition, and criteria for rooftop helicopter hangars were added for the 2001 edition. The 2006 edition was a partial revision.

The 2011 edition revised the requirements for means of egress, fuel equipment locations, and suppression system design and testing, and a requirement for emergency response planning was added. Those changes were intended to address problems that had contributed to recent helipad fires.

For the 2016 edition, the committee wanted to build on the improvements in the previous edition. This edition adds a retroactivity clause to provide a means for ensuring the safety of existing heliports without requiring full compliance. New criteria for determining noncombustibility of helipad materials have been incorporated. The authority having jurisdiction is required to approve the emergency response plan, to ensure that the plan is coordinated with first responders. The committee has also reorganized the section on fire protection for rooftop heliports for clarity while also addressing the following technical issues:

- (1) The foam discharge duration is increased from 5 minutes to 10 minutes to better align with other standards and to allow additional time for first responders to reach the rooftop heliport.
- (2) Signs to identify the foam system activation stations are now required to ensure that personnel are able to locate and identify the correct pull station in an emergency.
- (3) The foam system shutoff controls are required to be located where they will be accessible during a fire on the helipad.

The committee also assigned a task group to further study the implications of requiring compliance with the latest edition of FAA AC 150/5390. A second task group was assigned to review the requirements for portable extinguishers. Following the task group reports, the committee reaffirmed the existing requirements.

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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.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the fire protection criteria for the design and construction of elevated and ground level heliports, helistops, and helipads; fire protection requirements for heliports, helistops, and helipads; and requirements for rescue and fire-fighting operations at heliports, helistops, and helipads.

Contents

Chapter 1 Administration	418- 4	6.2 Rooftop Hangar Floor Drainage.	418- 8
1.1 Scope.	418- 4	6.3 Suspended or Elevated Heaters.	418- 8
1.2 Purpose.	418- 4	6.4 Lighting and Electrical Systems.	418- 9
1.3 New Technology.	418- 4	6.5 Lighting Protection.	418- 9
1.4 Retroactivity.	418- 4	6.6 Protection of Helicopter Rooftop Hangars.	418- 9
Chapter 2 Referenced Publications	418- 4	6.7 Portable Fire Extinguishers for Rooftop Hangars.	418- 9
2.1 General.	418- 4	Chapter 7 Water Supply	418- 9
2.2 NFPA Publications.	418- 4	7.1 Calculation of Water Supply for Foam Systems.	418- 9
2.3 Other Publications.	418- 5	Chapter 8 Offshore Heliports	418- 9
2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.	418- 5	8.1 Plans.	418- 9
Chapter 3 Definitions	418- 5	8.2 Fire-Fighting Access.	418- 9
3.1 General.	418- 5	8.3 Landing Pad Pitch.	418- 9
3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.	418- 5	Chapter 9 Portable Fire Extinguishers	418- 9
3.3 General Definitions.	418- 5	9.1 General.	418- 9
Chapter 4 General Requirements — Land-Based Facilities	418- 6	9.2 Minimum Requirement.	418- 9
4.1 General.	418- 6	9.3 Extinguishers Subject to Damage, Theft, or Tampering.	418- 9
4.2 Plans.	418- 6	Chapter 10 Emergency Operations	418- 9
4.3 Tank and Equipment Locations.	418- 6	10.1 Emergency Response Plan.	418- 9
4.4 Fire-Fighting Access.	418- 6	10.2 Training.	418- 9
4.5 Fuel Spill Control.	418- 6	Annex A Explanatory Material	418- 9
4.6 No Smoking.	418- 6	Annex B Heliport Emergency Planning and Training for Safety Personnel	418- 11
4.7 Fueling System.	418- 6	Annex C Establishing Extinguishing Agent Quantities and Discharge Rates	418- 12
4.8 Means of Egress.	418- 6	Annex D Informational References	418- 14
Chapter 5 Rooftop Landing Facilities	418- 6	Index	418- 16
5.1 General.	418- 6		
5.2 Structural Support.	418- 6		
5.3 Landing Pad Pitch.	418- 6		
5.4 Landing Pad Construction Materials.	418- 6		
5.5 Means of Egress.	418- 7		
5.6 Fire-Fighting Access. (Reserved)	418- 7		
5.7 Fire Protection.	418- 7		
Chapter 6 Rooftop Hangars	418- 8		
6.1 Construction.	418- 8		

NFPA 418**Standard for****Heliports****2016 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. As an aid to the user, the complete title and edition of the source documents for extracts in mandatory sections of the document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in informational sections are given in Annex D. 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 publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex D.

Chapter 1 Administration**1.1 Scope.**

1.1.1 This standard specifies the minimum requirements for fire protection for heliports and rooftop hangars.

1.1.2 This standard does not apply to ground-level helicopter hangars.

1.1.3 All hangars not covered by this standard are required to comply with NFPA 409.

1.1.4 Temporary landing sites and emergency evacuation facilities are outside the scope of this standard.

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to establish minimum fire safety requirements for operation at heliports for the

protection of persons, aircraft, and other property. (See Annex B, *Heliport Emergency Planning and Training for Safety Personnel*.)

1.3 New Technology.

1.3.1 Nothing in this standard shall be intended to restrict new technologies or alternative arrangements, provided the level of safety prescribed by this standard is not lowered.

1.3.2 Materials or devices not specifically designated by this standard shall be utilized in complete accord with all conditions, requirements, and limitations of their listings.

1.4 Retroactivity. The provisions of this standard reflect a consensus of what is necessary to provide an acceptable degree of protection from the hazards addressed in this standard at the time the standard was issued.

1.4.1 Unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this standard shall not apply to facilities, equipment, structures, or installations that existed or were approved for construction or installation prior to the effective date of the standard. Where specified, the provisions of this standard shall be retroactive.

1.4.2 In those cases where the authority having jurisdiction determines that the existing situation presents an unacceptable degree of risk, the authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to apply retroactively any portions of this standard deemed appropriate.

1.4.3 The retroactive requirements of this standard shall be permitted to be modified if their application clearly would be impractical in the judgment of the authority having jurisdiction, and only where it is clearly evident that a reasonable degree of safety is provided.

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 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 11, *Standard for Low-, Medium-, and High-Expansion Foam*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, 2016 edition.

NFPA 14, *Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems*, 2016 edition.

NFPA 16, *Standard for the Installation of Foam-Water Sprinkler and Foam-Water Spray Systems*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 20, *Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection*, 2016 edition.

NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, 2014 edition.

NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*, 2015 edition.

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

NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, 2016 edition.

NFPA 99, *Health Care Facilities Code*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 101®, *Life Safety Code*®, 2015 edition.