

NFPA® 600

Standard on Industrial Fire Brigades

2010 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA® 600
Standard on
Industrial Fire Brigades
2010 Edition

This edition of NFPA 600, *Standard on Industrial Fire Brigades*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Loss Prevention Procedures and Practices. It was issued by the Standards Council on October 27, 2009, with an effective date of December 5, 2009, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 600 was approved as an American National Standard on December 5, 2009.

Origin and Development of NFPA 600

In 1902 NFPA adopted *Suggestions for Organizing Private Fire Departments* recommended by the Committee on Private Fire Department Regulations. In 1912 NFPA adopted two pamphlets, *Organization and Execution of Exit Drills* and *Organization and Drilling of Private Fire Brigades*, on the recommendation of the Committee on Private Fire Departments and Fire Drills. In 1924 the NFPA adopted *Suggestions for the Organization, Drilling and Equipment of Private Fire Brigades* on the recommendation of the Committee on Field Practice, and revisions were adopted in 1930, 1937, and 1949.

Jurisdiction for the publication was transferred in 1948 to the new Committee on Fire Brigades and Watchmen, and a revised edition was published in 1955. The guide was completely revised in 1967.

In 1969 the committee was reorganized as the Technical Committee on Loss Prevention Procedures and Practices, and the guide was reconfirmed in 1975. In 1981 a complete revision was accomplished, and a partial revision was made in the 1986 edition, as well as a redesignation from NFPA 27 to NFPA 600.

In 1992 the document was completely revised as a standard to provide a minimum level of occupational safety and health for industrial fire brigade members consistent with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The standard incorporated the concepts of advanced exterior fire fighting and site-specific hazards for the first time. These concepts were needed for industrial fire brigades to properly address the types of situations they encounter.

In 1996 the document was revised to include industrial fire departments, which were previously addressed in NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*. This reorganization assisted the authority having jurisdiction and owner/operators in determining the standard they must comply with and if they are in compliance. Other changes made the document more user friendly and better clarified the requirements of the standard.

Changes to the 2000 edition were mainly editorial or were provided for clarification. A noteworthy exception was the change in the number of industrial fire brigade members for interior structural fire fighting. Two industrial fire brigade members were now required to be available for rescue, whereas the previous edition required only one.

The 2005 edition incorporated revised definitions that correspond to preferred terms found in the *Glossary of Terms*. One of the definition changes incorporated a broader scope for the medical professionals who assess medical and physical fitness of fire brigade members. The term “qualified physician” was replaced by “qualified health care professional” to reflect actual practice.

The 2005 edition added references to the professional qualification standard, NFPA 1081, *Standard for Industrial Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications*, which was adopted after the effective date of the 2000 edition. The standard was also revised and reorganized in accordance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

The 2010 edition represents a reconfirmation of the requirements in the standard. Minor editorial changes have been made for consistency with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

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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 fire brigades, guard services, and techniques for securing effective fire loss prevention programs in industrial, commercial, institutional, and similar properties.



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NFPA 600

Standard on

Industrial Fire Brigades

2010 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 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 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 for organizing, operating, training, and equipping industrial fire brigades. It also contains minimum requirements for the occupational safety and health of industrial fire brigade members while performing fire fighting and related activities.

1.1.2* This standard shall apply to any organized, private, industrial group of employees having fire-fighting response duties, such as emergency brigades, emergency response teams, fire teams, and plant emergency organizations.

1.1.3* This standard shall not apply to industrial fire brigades that respond to fire emergencies outside the boundaries of the industrial site where the off-site fire involves unfamiliar hazards or enclosed structures with layout and contents that are unknown to the industrial fire brigade.

1.1.4 This standard shall not apply to medical response, confined space rescue response, and hazardous material response activities.

1.2* Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to provide minimum requirements for organization, operation, training, and occupational safety and health for industrial fire brigades.

1.3 Alternate Requirements.

1.3.1 The application of the performance objectives of this standard can vary for many industrial operations.

1.3.2 The authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to examine and approve organization, operations, training, and occupational safety and health requirements that provide an equivalent level of safety to the level of safety provided by the requirements of this standard.

1.4* Limits of Actions and Responsibilities of Industrial Fire Brigade.

1.4.1 General.

1.4.1.1 The degree of potential exposure to a hazardous environment and the degree of training shall determine the limits of any industrial fire brigade action and responsibility.

1.4.1.2 The written industrial fire brigade organizational statement and standard operating procedures shall define these limits.

1.4.2* Incident Command. At facilities where designated employees are intended to function as the first responders to incipient fires, the industrial fire brigade shall assume command of the incident once the brigade arrives on the fire scene.

1.4.3 Limits for Industrial Fire Brigades Assigned Incipient Fire-Fighting Response Duties.

1.4.3.1 Interior and exterior fires shall be considered incipient stage when industrial fire brigade members function as follows:

- (1) They are able to safely fight the fire in normal work clothing.
- (2) They are not required to crawl or take other evasive action to avoid smoke and heat.
- (3) They are not required to wear thermal protective clothing or self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- (4) They are able to fight the fire effectively with portable extinguishers or handlines flowing up to 473 L/min (125 gpm)

1.4.3.2 Exterior fires shall be considered appropriate for defensive action outside of the hot and warm zones by industrial fire brigade members who have been assigned incipient fire-fighting response duties when the following occurs:

- (1) The organizational statement lists it as a response duty of the industrial fire brigade, and it is covered by the standard operating procedures.
- (2) The industrial fire brigade has received training for that activity.
- (3) SCBA and thermal protective clothing are not required.
- (4) Personal evasive action is not required.
- (5) The industrial fire brigade is able to perform defensive action effectively, using handlines flowing up to 1140 L/min (300 gpm), master streams, or similar devices for the manual application of specialized agents.

1.4.4 Limits for Industrial Fire Brigades Assigned Only Advanced Exterior Fire-Fighting Response Duties. Exterior fires shall be considered appropriate for offensive action within the hot zone by industrial fire brigade members who have been assigned advanced exterior fire-fighting response duties when the following occurs:

- (1) The organizational statement lists it as a response duty of the industrial fire brigade, and it is covered by the standard operating procedures.
- (2) The industrial fire brigade has received training for that activity.



- (3) SCBA and thermal protective clothing are provided.
- (4) The industrial fire brigade is able to perform offensive action effectively, using handlines flowing up to 1140 L/min (300 gpm), master streams, or similar devices for the manual application of specialized agents.

1.4.5 Limits for Industrial Fire Brigades Assigned Only Interior Structural Fire-Fighting Response Duties. Interior structural fires shall be considered appropriate for offensive action within the hot zone by industrial fire brigade members who have been assigned interior fire-fighting response duties when the following occurs:

- (1) The organizational statement lists it as a response duty of the industrial fire brigade, and it is covered by the standard operating procedures.
- (2) The industrial fire brigade has received training for that activity.
- (3) SCBA and protective clothing for structural fire fighting are provided.
- (4) The industrial fire brigade is able to perform offensive actions effectively, using handlines flowing up to 1140 L/min (300 gpm), master streams, or similar devices for the manual application of specialized agents.

1.4.6 Limits of Industrial Fire Brigades Assigned Both Advanced Exterior and Interior Structural Fire-Fighting Response Duties.

1.4.6.1 Both exterior fires and interior structural fires shall be considered appropriate for offensive action within the hot zone for industrial fire brigade members who have been assigned both advanced exterior and interior fire-fighting response duties when the following occurs:

- (1) The organizational statement lists it as a response duty of the industrial fire brigade, and it is covered by the standard operating procedures.
- (2) The industrial fire brigade has received training for that activity.
- (3) SCBA and thermal protective clothing are provided.
- (4) The industrial fire brigade is able to perform offensive action effectively, using handlines flowing up to 1140 L/min (300 gpm), master streams, or similar devices for the manual application of specialized agents.

1.4.6.2 Protective clothing for proximity fire fighting shall not be worn for interior structural fire fighting.

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 1081, *Standard for Industrial Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications*, 2007 edition.

NFPA 1403, *Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions*, 2007 edition.

NFPA 1911, *Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus*, 2007 edition.

NFPA 1971, *Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*, 2007 edition.

NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services*, 2007 edition.

NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)*, 2007 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

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

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 601, *Standard for Security Services in Fire Loss Prevention*, 2010 edition.

NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer*, 2008 edition.

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 defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, shall be 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 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* Combustible Liquid. A liquid that has a closed-cup flash point at or above 37.8°C (100°F).

3.3.2 Designated Employee. An employee who is not a member of an industrial fire brigade but who has been trained to use portable fire extinguishers or small hose lines to fight incipient fires in the employee's immediate work area.

3.3.3 Drill. An exercise involving a credible simulated emergency that requires personnel to perform emergency response operations for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the training and education programs and the competence of personnel in performing required response duties and functions. [601, 2010]

3.3.4 Drug. Any substance, chemical, over-the-counter medication, or prescribed medication that can affect performance.

3.3.5* Education. The process of imparting knowledge or skill through systematic instruction.

3.3.6 Emergency Response Operations. Activities related to emergency incidents, including response to the scene of the incident and specific response duties performed at the scene.

3.3.7 Enclosed Structure. A structure with a roof or ceiling and at least two walls that can present fire hazards to employees, such as accumulations of smoke, toxic gases, and heat, similar to those found in buildings.

3.3.8 Fire Fighting.

3.3.8.1* Advanced Exterior Fire Fighting. Offensive fire fighting performed outside of an enclosed structure when the fire is beyond the incipient stage.

3.3.8.2 Defensive Fire Fighting. The mode of manual fire control in which the only fire suppression activities taken are limited to those required to keep a fire from extending from one area to another.

3.3.8.3 Incipient Fire Fighting. Fire fighting performed inside or outside of an enclosed structure or building when the fire has not progressed beyond incipient stage.

3.3.8.4* Interior Structural Fire Fighting. The physical activity of fire suppression, rescue, or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures that are involved in a fire beyond the incipient stage.

3.3.8.5 Offensive Fire Fighting. The mode of manual fire control in which manual fire suppression activities are concentrated on reducing the size of a fire to accomplish extinguishment.

3.3.9 Fit.

3.3.9.1 Medically Fit. As determined by a qualified healthcare professional, there are no known medical limitations that would interfere with the process of making decisions and providing direction while exposed to a stressful environment.

3.3.9.2 Physically Fit. As determined by a qualified healthcare professional, there are no known physical or medical limitations that would interfere with the performance of strenuous heavy lifting and pulling or with the use of self-contained breathing apparatus that can be required during emergency response organizations.

3.3.10* Flammable Liquid. A liquid that has a closed-cup flash point that is below 37.8°C (100°F) and a maximum vapor pressure of 2068 mm Hg (40 psia) at 37.8°C (100°F).

3.3.11* Hazardous Atmosphere. Any atmosphere that is oxygen deficient or that contains a toxic or disease-producing contaminant.

3.3.12 Incident Management System. A system that defines the roles and responsibilities to be assumed by personnel and the operating procedures to be used in the management and direction of emergency operations; the system is also referred to as an incident command system (ICS).

3.3.13* Incipient Stage. The early stage of a fire, in which the progression has not developed beyond that which can be extinguished using either portable fire extinguishers or handlines flowing up to 473 L/min (125 gpm).

3.3.14 Industrial Fire Brigade. An organized group of employees within an industrial occupancy who are knowledgeable, trained, and skilled in at least basic fire-fighting operations, and whose full-time occupation might or might not be

the provision of fire suppression and related activities for their employer.

3.3.15 Industrial Fire Brigade Apparatus. An industrial fire brigade emergency response vehicle designed and intended primarily for fire suppression, rescue, or other specialized function that includes pumpers, foam apparatus, aerial ladders, rescue vehicles, and other such apparatus.

3.3.16 Industrial Fire Brigade Management. The individual designated by top management to be responsible for the organization, management, and functions of the industrial fire brigade.

3.3.17 Industrial Fire Brigade Training Coordinator. The designated company representative with responsibility for coordinating effective, consistent, and quality training within the industrial fire brigade training and education program.

3.3.18 Industrial Occupancy. Occupancies that include industrial, commercial, mercantile, warehouse, power plant (utility), and institutional or similar occupancy, including for-profit, not-for-profit, and governmental facilities.

3.3.19 Master Stream. A portable or fixed fire-fighting appliance supplied by either hose lines or fixed piping and that has the capability of flowing in excess of 1140 L/min (300 gpm) of water or water-based extinguishing agent.

3.3.20 Performance Standards. Minimum requirements for knowledge and skills that must be provided to or demonstrated by the industrial fire brigade member upon completion of a training or education session.

3.3.21 Qualified Healthcare Professional. A licensed medical doctor or other licensed healthcare professional qualified to provide professional expertise in the areas of occupational safety and health as they relate to emergency response activities.

3.3.22 Response Duty. A fire-related service, function, or task identified in the industrial fire brigade organizational statement and assigned to a member to perform.

3.3.23* Site. The location of an industrial complex/facility that includes all property within the property lines of the company.

3.3.24 Site-Specific Hazard. A hazard that is present at the specific facility for which the industrial fire brigade has been organized.

3.3.25 Specialized Agents. Fire-extinguishing agents, such as dry chemicals, dry powders, carbon dioxide, halon, and other such non-water-based agents.

3.3.26 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, 2008]

3.3.27* Support Members. Personnel assigned to the industrial fire brigade to perform specific response duties, including those people who have specific technical knowledge or skills or who have been given specific assignments that indirectly support manual fire suppression efforts.

3.3.28 Thermal Protective Clothing. Protective clothing such as helmets, footwear, gloves, hoods, trousers, and coats that are designed and manufactured to protect the industrial fire brigade member from the adverse effects of fire.

3.3.29 Training. The process of achieving proficiency through instruction and hands-on practice in the operation of equipment and systems that are expected to be used in the performance of assigned response duties.

