

NFPA® 600

Standard on Facility Fire Brigades

2015 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA® 600
Standard on
Facility Fire Brigades
2015 Edition

This edition of NFPA 600, *Standard on Facility Fire Brigades*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Loss Prevention Procedures and Practices. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 11, 2014, with an effective date of December 1, 2014, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 600 was approved as an American National Standard on December 1, 2014.

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*.

For the 2015 edition, the standard has been reorganized. The Committee believes that the hazards to a fire brigade from interior structural and advanced exterior fire fighting are the same, including the potential for an IDLH environment, and therefore the consolidated requirements from the two separate chapters into one chapter applicable to both. In addition, the Committee has changed the title of the document from *Industrial Fire Brigades* to *Facility Fire Brigades*, recognizing that fire brigades exist beyond industrial settings. The word *facility* now replaces *industrial* throughout the standard.



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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.

Contents

Chapter 1 Administration	600- 5	4.11 Facility Fire Brigade Equipment	600-11
1.1 Scope	600- 5	4.12 Facility Fire Brigade Apparatus	600-11
1.2 Purpose	600- 5		
1.3 Application	600- 5	Chapter 5 Facility Fire Brigades That Perform	
1.4 Equivalency	600- 5	Incipient Stage Fire Fighting	600-11
1.5 Units and Formulas	600- 5	5.1 General	600-11
		5.2 Limits for Facility Fire Brigades	
Chapter 2 Referenced Publications	600- 5	Assigned Incipient Fire-Fighting	
2.1 General	600- 5	Response Duties	600-11
2.2 NFPA Publications	600- 5	5.3 Education, Training, and Drills	600-11
2.3 Other Publications	600- 5	5.4 Protective Clothing and Protective	
2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory		Equipment	600-11
Sections	600- 6	5.5 Medical	600-12
Chapter 3 Definitions	600- 6	Chapter 6 Facility Fire Brigades That Perform	
3.1 General	600- 6	Advanced Exterior or Interior	
3.2 NFPA Official Definitions	600- 6	Structural Fire Fighting	600-12
3.3 General Definitions	600- 6	6.1 General	600-12
		6.2 Limits of Facility Fire Brigades Assigned	
Chapter 4 Facility Fire Brigade Fundamentals	600- 7	Both Advanced Exterior and	
4.1 General	600- 7	Interior Structural Fire-Fighting	
4.2 Organization and Administration	600- 7	Response Duties	600-12
4.3 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)	600- 8	6.3 Operational Requirements	600-12
4.4 Incident Management System (IMS)	600- 9	6.4 Education, Training, and Drills	600-12
4.5 Risk Management Policy	600- 9	6.5 Protective Clothing and Protective	
4.6 Training and Education	600- 9	Equipment	600-12
4.7 Drills	600- 9	6.6 Medical	600-13
4.8 Training and Drill Records	600-10		
4.9 Responsibilities in the Facility Fire		Annex A Explanatory Material	600-13
Brigade Organization	600-10	Annex B Informational References	600-20
4.10 Medical and Job-Related Physical		Index	600-21
Requirements	600-10		



NFPA 600

Standard on

Facility Fire Brigades

2015 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 facility fire brigades when responding to fires in industrial, commercial, institutional, and similar properties.

1.1.2 This standard provides minimum requirements for the occupational safety and health of facility fire brigade members while performing fire fighting and related 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 facility fire brigades.

1.3 Application.

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

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

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

1.3.4 This standard shall not apply to fire departments complying with NFPA 1500.

1.4* Equivalency. The authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to 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.

1.5 Units and Formulas.

1.5.1 The units of measure in this standard are presented in the International System (SI) of Units. Where presented, U.S. customary units (inch-pound units) follow the SI units in parentheses.

1.5.2 Where both systems of units are presented, either system shall be acceptable for satisfying the requirements in this standard.

1.5.3 Where both systems of units are presented, users of this standard shall apply one set of units consistently and shall not alternate between units.

1.5.4 The values presented for measurements in this standard are expressed with a degree of precision appropriate for practical application and enforcement. It is not intended that the application or enforcement of these values be more precise than the precision expressed.

1.5.5 Where extracted text contains values expressed in only one system of units, the values in the extracted text have been retained without conversion to preserve the values established by the responsible technical committee in the source document.

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

NFPA 1081, *Standard for Industrial Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications*, 2012 edition.

NFPA 1403, *Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions*, 2012 edition.

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 1911, *Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus*, 2012 edition.

NFPA 1971, *Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)*, 2013 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 ASTM Publications. ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

ASTM D 323, *Standard Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Reid Method)*, 2008.

2.3.2 Other Publications.

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

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

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

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 1561, *Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System and Command Safety*, 2014 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. An NFPA Standard, the main text of which contains only mandatory provisions using the word "shall" to indicate requirements and that is in a form generally suitable for mandatory reference by another standard or code or for adoption into law. Nonmandatory provisions are not to be considered a part of the requirements of a standard and shall be located in an appendix, annex, footnote, informational note, or other means as permitted in the NFPA Manuals of Style. When used in a generic sense, such as in the phrase "standards development process" or "standards development activities," the term "standards" includes all NFPA Standards, including Codes, Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guides.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1* Combustible Liquid. Any liquid that has a closed-cup flash point at or above 37.8°C (100°F), as determined by the test procedures and apparatus set forth in Section 4.4 of NFPA 30. Combustible liquids are classified according to Section 4.3 of NFPA 30. [30, 2015]

3.3.2* Control Zones. The areas at an incident that are designated based upon safety and the degree of hazard. [1500, 2013]

3.3.2.1 Cold Zone. The control zone of an incident that contains the command post and such other support functions as are deemed necessary to control the incident. [1500, 2013]

3.3.2.2 Hot Zone. The control zone immediately surrounding a hazardous area, which extends far enough to prevent adverse effects to personnel outside the zone. [1500, 2013]

3.3.2.3 Warm Zone. The control zone outside the hot zone where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support takes place. [1500, 2013]

3.3.3 Designated Employee. An employee who is not a member of an facility 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.

3.3.4 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.

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

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

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

3.3.8 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.

3.3.9* Facility. Any location or structure including industrial, commercial, mercantile, warehouse, power plant (utility), areas of assembly, institutional or similar occupancy, public and private as well as for-profit, not-for-profit, and governmental facilities.

3.3.10 Facility Fire Brigade. An organized group of employees at a facility 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.

3.3.10.1 Facility Fire Brigade Leader. An individual responsible for overseeing the performance or activity of other members.

3.3.11 Facility Fire Brigade Apparatus. A facility 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.

3.3.12 Facility Fire Brigade Management. The individual designated by top management to be responsible for the organization, management, and functions of the facility fire brigade.

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

3.3.14 Fire Fighting.

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