

NFPA® 600

Standard on Facility Fire Brigades

2025 Edition



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NFPA® 600

Standard on

Facility Fire Brigades

2025 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 16, 2024, with an effective date of December 6, 2024, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 600 was approved as an American National Standard on December 6, 2024.

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 firefighting 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 firefighting. 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 was reorganized. The committee believed that the hazards to a fire brigade from interior structural and advanced exterior firefighting were 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 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* replaced *industrial* throughout the standard.

In the 2020 edition, several modifications were made to increase the scope of the standard and to provide the stakeholder with more concise language. In Chapter 1, new material was added for facility fire brigades that respond to offsite fire emergencies in conjunction with local fire departments.

The revision clarified that the individual(s) designated by senior management was responsible for the organization, management, and nonemergency response functions of the facility fire brigade.

In Chapter 3, definitions were expanded to include specific details about potential time intervals and add timing flexibility.

In Chapter 4, the language was modified in several areas to provide clarification on responsibilities. The language was edited to indicate who is in charge of an incident when an incipient fire occurs. The revised language also provided direction for designated representatives within an organizational statement. The role of the facility fire brigade leader was also better defined. These changes were made to avoid potential confusion about responsibilities during a fire emergency.

Mandatory language was added regarding the requirement to develop a site-specific risk management policy for employees who serve as facility fire brigade members. It was added to clarify the potential risks that are involved with responding to a fire emergency.

Section 4.11 was modified to reflect proper inventory management so that the items needed for a response would be readily available.

In Chapter 6, a requirement was added to ensure that protective thermal clothing and protective equipment are used and maintained according to the standards of NFPA 1851, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*. This requirement was added to ensure the proper protection of facility fire brigade members during a fire emergency.

Annex A was revised to cite federal regulations accurately and to match the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.156, "Fire Brigades."

In the 2025 edition, clarifications to the limits of incipient level facility fire brigades have been made to account for the use of fixed master streams while not being in the hot or warm zones. Reference has been made to NFPA 1550 for industry best practices with exposure control and mental health awareness.

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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	Chapter 5 Facility Fire Brigades That Perform	
1.3 Application.	600– 5	Incipient Stage Firefighting	600– 12
1.4 Equivalency.	600– 5	5.1 General.	600– 12
1.5 Units and Formulas.	600– 5	5.2 Limits for Facility Fire Brigades Assigned	
Chapter 2 Referenced Publications	600– 5	Incipient Firefighting Response Duties.	600– 12
2.1 General.	600– 5	5.3 Education, Training, and Drills.	600– 12
2.2 NFPA Publications.	600– 5	5.4 Protective Clothing and Protective Equipment.	600– 12
2.3 Other Publications.	600– 6	5.5 Medical.	600– 12
2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.	600– 6	Chapter 6 Facility Fire Brigades That Perform	
Chapter 3 Definitions	600– 6	Advanced Exterior or Interior Structural	
3.1 General.	600– 6	Firefighting	600– 12
3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.	600– 6	6.1 General.	600– 12
3.3 General Definitions.	600– 6	6.2 Limits of Facility Fire Brigades Assigned Both	
Chapter 4 Facility Fire Brigade Fundamentals	600– 8	Advanced Exterior and Interior Structural	
4.1 General.	600– 8	Firefighting Response Duties.	600– 12
4.2 Organization and Administration.	600– 8	6.3 Operational Requirements.	600– 12
4.3 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).	600– 9	6.4 Education, Training, and Drills.	600– 13
4.4 Incident Management System (IMS).	600– 9	6.5 Protective Clothing and Protective Equipment.	600– 13
4.5 Risk Management Policy.	600– 9	6.6 Medical.	600– 13
4.6 Training and Education.	600– 9	Annex A Explanatory Material	600– 14
4.7 Drills.	600– 10	Annex B Informational References	600– 21
4.8 Training and Drill Records.	600– 10	Index	600– 23
4.9 Responsibilities in the Facility Fire Brigade			
Organization.	600– 10		
4.10 Medical and Job-Related Physical			
Requirements.	600– 11		

NFPA 600

Standard on

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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. 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 and extracted 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 for response 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 firefighting 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 firefighting response duties, such as emergency brigades, emergency response teams, fire teams, and plant emergency organizations.

1.3.2* This standard shall apply to facility fire brigades that respond to fire emergencies off-site when the fire brigade is trained and familiar with the hazards associated with the fire and when they are responding in support of another facility fire brigade.

1.3.2.1 This standard shall apply if the facility fire brigade is responding to a fire emergency off-site in conjunction with a fire department subject to the requirements of NFPA 1550 and if the facility fire brigade is trained and familiar with the hazards associated with the incident.

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 1550.

1.4* Equivalency. Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by 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, US 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*, 2024 edition.

NFPA 1081, *Standard for Facility Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications*, 2024 edition.

NFPA 1403, *Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions*, 2018 edition.

NFPA 1550, *Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety*, 2024 edition.

NFPA 1851, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*, 2020 edition.

NFPA 1910, *Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Refurbishment, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles and Marine Firefighting Vessels*, 2024 edition.

NFPA 1971, *Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*, 2018 edition.

NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services*, 2019 edition.

NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)*, 2018 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 D323, *Standard Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Reid Method)*, 2020a.

2.3.2 Other Publications.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA, 2020.

Δ 2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*, 2024 edition.

NFPA 1550, *Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety*, 2024 edition.

Chapter 3 Definitions

Δ 3.1 General.

3.1.1 The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this standard.

3.1.2 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.

3.1.3 *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.

Δ 3.3.1* Combustible Liquid. An ignitable liquid that is classified as Class II or Class III liquid. (See 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 of NFPA 30.) [30, 2024]

Δ 3.3.2* Control Zones. The areas at an incident that are designated based upon safety and the degree of hazard. [1550, 2024]

Δ 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. [1550, 2024]

Δ 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. [1550, 2024]

Δ 3.3.2.3 Warm Zone. The control zone outside the hot zone where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support takes place. [1550, 2024]

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

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 firefighting operations, and whose full-time occupation might be the provision of fire suppression and related activities for their employer.

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