

# 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

### 2001 Edition



NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101  
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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## **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**

## **2001 Edition**

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 13–17, 2001, in Anaheim, CA. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 13, 2001, with an effective date of August 2, 2001.

This edition of NFPA 1710 was approved as an American National Standard on August 2, 2001.

### **Origin and Development of NFPA 1710**

The development of this benchmark standard is the result of a considerable amount of hard work and tenacity by Technical Committee members and the organizations they represent. In the case of this standard, their work is the first organized approach to defining levels of service, deployment capabilities, and staffing levels for those “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 being provided, as identified by the fire department. Committee members have collectively well over 1000 years of fire-fighting experience in small, medium, and metro fire departments.

The work done by the Committee provides the user with a template for developing an implementation plan on the standard. Most importantly, it will provide 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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**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.

*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.

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## 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

## 2001 Edition

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. The complete title and edition of the document the material is extracted from is found 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 appropriate technical committee.

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 in 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.

**2.1.1 NFPA Publications.** National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-1901.

NFPA 295, *Standard for Wildfire Control*, 1998 edition.

NFPA 403, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services at Airports*, 1998 edition.

NFPA 472, *Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents*, 1997 edition.

NFPA 1221, *Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems*, 1999 edition.

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, 1997 edition.

NFPA 1561, *Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System*, 2000 edition.

NFPA 1670, *Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents*, 1999 edition.

### 2.1.2 Other Publications.

**2.1.2.1 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," 1986.

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.** The organization, office, or individual responsible 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.

### 3.3 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. [1142:1.4]

**3.3.1.2\* Mutual Aid.** Reciprocal assistance by emergency services under a prearranged plan. [402:1.4]

**3.3.2\* 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. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.3\* 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. [1002:1.4]

**3.3.4\* Airport Fire Department Personnel.** Personnel under the operational jurisdiction of the chief of the airport fire department assigned to aircraft rescue and fire fighting or other emergency response activities. [403:1.3]

**3.3.5\* 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. [1221:1.4]

**3.3.6\* Apparatus.** A motor-driven vehicle or group of vehicles designed and constructed for the purpose of fighting fires. [295:1.3]

**3.3.6.1 Fire Apparatus.** A fire department emergency vehicle used for rescue, fire suppression, or other specialized functions. [1404:1.4]

**3.3.6.2 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.

**3.3.6.3 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.

### **3.3.7 Attack.**

**3.3.7.1 Initial Attack.** Fire-fighting efforts and activities that occur in the time increment between the arrival of the fire department on the scene of a fire and the tactical decision by the incident commander that the resources dispatched on the original response will be insufficient to control and extinguish the fire, or that the fire is extinguished.

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

**3.3.8\* 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.

**3.3.9 Emergency Incident.** A specific emergency operation. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.10 Emergency Medical Care.** The provision of treatment to patients, including first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic life support (EMT level), advanced life support (Para-

medic level), and other medical procedures that occur prior to arrival at a hospital or other health care facility. [1581:1.3]

**3.3.11 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. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.12 Fire Chief.** The highest ranking officer in charge of a fire department. [1201:1.7]

**3.3.13 Fire Department Member.** See 3.3.29 Member. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.14 Fire Department Vehicle.** Any vehicle, including fire apparatus, operated by a fire department. [1002:1.4]

**3.3.15 Fire Protection.** Methods of providing for fire control or fire extinguishment. [801:1.5]

**3.3.16\* Fire Suppression.** The activities involved in controlling and extinguishing fires. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.17\* 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.

**3.3.18 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.

**3.3.19\* Hazard.** The potential for harm or damage to people, property, or the environment. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.20 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. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.21\* High Hazard Occupancy.** Building that has high hazard materials, processes, or contents.

**3.3.22 Incident Commander.** The fire department member in overall command of an emergency incident. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.23\* Incident Management System (IMS).** An organized system of roles, responsibilities, and standard operating procedures used to manage emergency operations. [1021:1.4]

**3.3.24 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.

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

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

### **3.3.27 Life Support.**

**3.3.27.1 Advanced Life Support (ALS).** Functional provision of advanced airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring, manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous access, and drug therapy.



**3.3.27.2\* Basic Life Support (BLS).** Functional provision of patient assessment, including basic airway management; oxygen therapy; stabilization of spinal, musculo-skeletal, soft tissue, and shock injuries; stabilization of bleeding; and stabilization and intervention for sudden illness, poisoning and heat/cold injuries, childbirth, CPR, and automatic external defibrillator (AED) capability.

**3.3.28\* 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.

**3.3.29\* Member.** A person involved in performing the duties and responsibilities of a fire department under the auspices of the organization. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.30 Officer.**

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

**3.3.30.2\* 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.

**3.3.31\* Public Fire Department.** An organization providing rescue, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and related activities to the public.

**3.3.32 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).** Any facility where 911 calls are answered, either directly or through re-routing. [1221:1.4]

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

**3.3.34 Related Activities.** Any and all functions that fire department members can be called upon to perform in the performance of their duties. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.35 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. [1410:1.3]

**3.3.36\* Special Operations.** Those emergency incidents to which the fire department responds that require specific and advanced training and specialized tools and equipment. [1561:1.3]

**3.3.37\* 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.

**3.3.38 Standard Operating Procedure.** An organizational directive that establishes a standard course of action.

**3.3.39 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. [1500:1.5]

**3.3.40 Tactical Considerations.** Specific fire-fighting objectives that will present an unusually significant fire or life safety hazard when they are conducted in a fire or other emergency.

**3.3.41 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.

**3.3.42 Time.**

**3.3.42.1 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.

**3.3.42.2 Call Processing Time.** See 3.3.42.3 Dispatch Time.

**3.3.42.3\* 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.

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

**3.3.42.5 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 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 include service delivery objectives.

**4.1.2.1** These objectives shall include 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.

**4.1.2.1.1** 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

**4.1.2.1.2** The fire department shall establish a performance objective of not less than 90 percent for the achievement of each response time objective specified in 4.1.2.1.1.

**4.1.2.1.3** The fire department shall evaluate its level of service and deployment delivery and response time objectives on

an annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to level of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time objective in each geographic area within the jurisdiction of the fire department.

**4.1.2.1.4** The fire department shall provide the authority having jurisdiction with a written report, quadrennially, which shall be based on the annual evaluations required by 4.1.2.1.3.

**4.1.2.1.4.1** The quadrennial report shall define the geographic areas and/or circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being met.

**4.1.2.1.4.2** This report shall explain the predictable consequences of these deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve compliance.

**4.2 Fire Suppression Services.** The fire department organizational statement shall set forth the criteria for the various types of fire suppression incidents to which the fire department is required to respond.

#### **4.3 Emergency Medical Services.**

**4.3.1** The fire department organizational statement shall set forth the criteria for the various types of emergency medical incidents to which the fire department is required and/or expected to respond.

**4.3.2** The fire department organizational statement shall ensure that the fire department's emergency medical response capability includes personnel, equipment, and resources to deploy at the first responder level with automatic external defibrillator (AED) or higher treatment level.

**4.3.2.1** Where emergency medical services beyond the first responder with automatic defibrillator level are provided by another agency or private organization, the authority having jurisdiction, based upon recommendations from the fire department, shall include the minimum staffing, deployment and response criteria as required in Section 5.3 in the following:

- (1) The fire department organizational statement
- (2) Any contract, service agreement, governmental agreement, or memorandum of understanding between the authority having jurisdiction and the other agency or private organization

#### **4.4 Special Operations.**

**4.4.1** The fire department organizational statement shall set forth the criteria for the various types of special operations response and mitigation activities to which the fire department is required and/or expected to respond.

**4.4.2\*** The fire department organizational statement shall ensure that the fire department's hazardous materials response capability includes personnel, equipment, and resources to deploy at the first responder operational level as required by 29 CFR 1910.120.

**4.4.3** The fire department organizational statement shall ensure that the fire department's confined space response capability includes personnel, equipment, and resources to deploy at the confined space operational level as required by 29 CFR 1910.146.

**4.4.4** The fire department organizational statement shall set forth the criteria for the various types of fire department response during natural disasters or terrorism incidents, weap-

ons of mass destruction incidents, or large scale or mass casualty events.

**4.5 Airport Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services.** The fire department organizational statement shall set forth the criteria for the various types of airport rescue and fire-fighting incidents to which the fire department is required and/or expected to respond.

**4.6 Marine Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services.** The fire department organizational statement shall set forth the criteria for the various types of marine rescue and fire-fighting incidents to which the fire department is required and/or expected to respond.

**4.7 Wildland Fire Suppression Services.** The fire department organizational statement shall set forth the criteria for the various types of wildland fire suppression incidents to which the fire department is required and/or expected to respond.

#### **4.8 Intercommunity Organization.**

**4.8.1\*** Mutual aid, automatic aid, and fire protection agreements shall be in writing and shall address such issues as liability for injuries and deaths, disability retirements, cost of service, authorization to respond, staffing, and equipment, including the resources to be made available and the designation of the incident commander.

**4.8.2** Procedures and training of personnel for all fire departments in mutual aid, automatic aid, and fire protection agreement plans shall be comprehensive to produce an effective fire force and to ensure uniform operations.

**4.8.3** Companies responding to mutual aid incidents shall be equipped with communications equipment that allow personnel to communicate with incident commander and division supervisors, group supervisors, or sector officers.

## **Chapter 5 Fire Department Services**

### **5.1 Purpose.**

**5.1.1** The services provided by the fire department shall include those activities as required by Chapter 4.

**5.1.2** The procedures involved in these services, including operations and deployment, shall be established through written administrative regulations, standard operating procedures, and departmental orders.

**5.2\* Fire Suppression Services.** Fire suppression operations shall be organized to ensure that the fire department's fire suppression capability includes personnel, equipment, and resources to deploy the initial arriving company, the full initial alarm assignment, and additional alarm assignments. The fire department shall be permitted to use established automatic mutual aid and mutual aid agreements to comply with the requirements of Section 5.2.

#### **5.2.1 Staffing.**

**5.2.1.1\*** On-duty fire suppression personnel shall be comprised of the numbers necessary for fire-fighting performance relative to the expected fire-fighting conditions. These numbers shall be determined through task analyses that take the following factors into consideration:

- (1) Life hazard to the populace protected

- (2) Provisions of safe and effective fire-fighting performance conditions for the fire fighters
- (3) Potential property loss
- (4) Nature, configuration, hazards, and internal protection of the properties involved
- (5) Types of fireground tactics and evolutions employed as standard procedure, type of apparatus used, and results expected to be obtained at the fire scene

**5.2.1.2\*** On-duty personnel assigned to fire suppression shall be organized into company units and shall have appropriate apparatus and equipment assigned to such companies.

**5.2.1.2.1\*** The fire department shall identify minimum company staffing levels as necessary to meet the deployment criteria required in 5.2.3 to ensure that a sufficient number of members are assigned, on duty, and available to safely and effectively respond with each company.

**5.2.1.2.2** Each company shall be led by an officer who shall be considered a part of the company.

**5.2.1.2.3\*** Supervisory chief officers shall be dispatched or notified to respond to all full alarm assignments.

**5.2.1.2.4** The supervisory chief officer shall ensure that the incident management system is established as required in Section 6.2.

**5.2.1.2.5\*** Supervisory chief officers shall have staff aides deployed to them for purposes of incident management and accountability at emergency incidents.

**5.2.2 Operating Units.** Fire company staffing requirements shall be based on minimum levels for emergency operations for safety, effectiveness, and efficiency.

**5.2.2.1** Fire companies whose primary functions are to pump and deliver water and perform basic fire fighting at fires, including search and rescue, shall be known as engine companies.

**5.2.2.1.1** These companies shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty personnel.

**5.2.2.1.2** In jurisdictions with tactical hazards, high hazard occupancies, high incident frequencies, geographical restrictions, or other pertinent factors as identified by the authority having jurisdiction, these companies shall be staffed with a minimum of five or six on-duty members.

**5.2.2.2** Fire companies whose primary functions are to perform the variety of services associated with truck work, such as forcible entry, ventilation, search and rescue, aerial operations for water delivery and rescue, utility control, illumination, overhaul, and salvage work, shall be known as ladder or truck companies.

**5.2.2.2.1** These companies shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty personnel.

**5.2.2.2.2** In jurisdictions with tactical hazards, high hazard occupancies, high incident frequencies, geographical restrictions, or other pertinent factors as identified by the authority having jurisdiction, these companies shall be staffed with a minimum of five or six on-duty personnel.

**5.2.2.3** Other types of companies equipped with specialized apparatus and equipment shall be provided to assist engine and ladder companies where deemed necessary as part of established practice.

**5.2.2.3.1** These companies shall be staffed with a minimum number of on-duty personnel as required by the tactical hazards, high hazard occupancies, high incident frequencies, geographical restrictions, or other pertinent factors as identified by the authority having jurisdiction.

**5.2.2.4** Fire companies that deploy with quint apparatus, designed to operate as either an engine company or a ladder company, shall be staffed as specified in 5.2.2. If the company is expected to perform multiple roles simultaneously, additional staffing, above the levels specified in 5.2.2, shall be provided to ensure that those operations can be performed safely, effectively, and efficiently.

## **5.2.3 Deployment.**

### **5.2.3.1 Initial Arriving Company.**

**5.2.3.1.1** The fire department's fire suppression resources shall be deployed to provide for the arrival of an engine company within a 4-minute response time and/or the initial full alarm assignment within an 8-minute response time to 90 percent of the incidents as established in Chapter 4.

**5.2.3.1.2\*** Personnel assigned to the initial arriving company shall have the capability to implement an initial rapid intervention crew (IRIC).

### **5.2.3.2 Initial Full Alarm Assignment Capability.**

**5.2.3.2.1\*** The fire department shall have the capability to deploy an initial full alarm assignment within an 8-minute response time to 90 percent of the incidents as established in Chapter 4.

**5.2.3.2.2** The initial full alarm assignment shall provide for the following:

- (1) Establishment of incident command outside of the hazard area for the overall coordination and direction of the initial full alarm assignment. A minimum of one individual shall be dedicated to this task.
- (2) Establishment of an uninterrupted water supply of a minimum 1480 L/min (400 gpm) for 30 minutes. Supply line(s) shall be maintained by an operator who shall ensure uninterrupted water flow application.
- (3) Establishment of an effective water flow application rate of 1110 L/min (300 gpm) from two handlines, each of which shall have a minimum of 370 L/min (100 gpm). Attack and backup lines shall be operated by a minimum of two personnel each to effectively and safely maintain the line.
- (4) Provision of one support person for each attack and backup line deployed to provide hydrant hookup and to assist in line lays, utility control, and forcible entry.
- (5) A minimum of one victim search and rescue team shall be part of the initial full alarm assignment. Each search and rescue team shall consist of a minimum of two personnel.
- (6) A minimum of one ventilation team shall be part of the initial full alarm assignment. Each ventilation team shall consist of a minimum of two personnel.
- (7) If an aerial device is used in operations, one person shall function as an aerial operator who shall maintain primary control of the aerial device at all times.
- (8) Establishment of an IRIC that shall consist of a minimum of two properly equipped and trained personnel.

### **5.2.3.3 Additional Alarm Assignments.**

**5.2.3.3.1** The fire department shall have the capability for additional alarm assignments that can provide for additional

personnel and additional services, including the application of water to the fire; engagement in search and rescue, forcible entry, ventilation, and preservation of property; accountability for personnel; and provision of support activities for those situations that are beyond the capability of the initial full alarm assignment.

**5.2.3.3.2** When an incident escalates beyond an initial full alarm assignment or when significant risk is present to fire fighters due to the magnitude of the incident, the incident commander shall upgrade the IRIC to a full rapid intervention crew(s) (RIC) that consists of four fully equipped and trained fire fighters.

**5.2.3.3.3** An incident safety officer shall be deployed to all incidents that escalate beyond an initial full alarm assignment or when significant risk is present to fire fighters. The incident safety officer shall ensure that the safety and health system is established as required in Section 6.1.

### **5.3\* Emergency Medical Services.**

**5.3.1 Purpose.** EMS operations shall be organized to ensure that the fire department's emergency medical capability includes personnel, equipment, and resources to deploy the initial arriving company and additional alarm assignments. The fire department shall be permitted to use established automatic mutual aid or mutual aid agreements to comply with the requirements of Section 5.3.

**5.3.1.1** The purpose of this section shall be to provide standards for the delivery of EMS by fire departments.

**5.3.1.2** The fire department shall clearly document its role, responsibilities, functions, and objectives for the delivery of EMS.

### **5.3.2\* System Components.**

**5.3.2.1** The basic treatment levels within an EMS system, for the purposes of this standard, shall be categorized as first responder, basic life support (BLS), and advanced life support (ALS). The specific patient treatment capabilities associated with each level shall be determined by the authority having jurisdiction for the approval and licensing of EMS providers within each state and province.

**5.3.2.2** The minimal level of training for all fire fighters that respond to emergency incidents shall be to the first responder/AED level. The authority having jurisdiction shall determine if further training is required.

### **5.3.3 EMS System Functions.**

**5.3.3.1** The five basic functions within a career fire department EMS system shall be as follows:

- (1) Initial response to provide medical treatment at the location of the emergency (first responder with AED capability or higher)
- (2) BLS response
- (3) ALS response
- (4) Patient transport in an ambulance or alternative vehicle designed to provide for uninterrupted patient care at the ALS or BLS level while en route to a medical facility
- (5) Assurance of response and medical care through a quality management program

**5.3.3.2** The fire department shall be involved in providing any or all of the functions as identified in 5.3.3.1(1) through 5.3.3.1(5).

### **5.3.3.3 Staffing.**

**5.3.3.3.1** On-duty EMS units shall be staffed with the minimum numbers of personnel necessary for emergency medical care relative to the level of EMS provided by the fire department.

**5.3.3.3.2** EMS staffing requirements shall be based on the minimum levels needed to provide patient care and member safety.

**5.3.3.3.2.1** Units that provide emergency medical care shall be staffed at a minimum with personnel that are trained to the first responder/AED level.

**5.3.3.3.2.2** Units that provide BLS transport shall be staffed and trained at the level prescribed by the state or provincial agency responsible for providing emergency medical services licensing.

**5.3.3.3.2.3** Units that provide ALS transport shall be staffed and trained at the level prescribed by the state or provincial agency responsible for providing emergency medical services licensing.

### **5.3.3.4 Service Delivery Deployment.**

**5.3.3.4.1** The fire department shall adopt service delivery objectives based on time standards for the deployment of each service component for which it is responsible.

**5.3.3.4.2** The fire department's EMS for providing first responder with AED shall be deployed to provide for the arrival of a first responder with AED company within a 4-minute response time to 90 percent of the incidents as established in Chapter 4.

**5.3.3.4.3\*** When provided, the fire department's EMS for providing ALS shall be deployed to provide for the arrival of an ALS company within an 8-minute response time to 90 percent of the incidents as established in Chapter 4.

**5.3.3.4.4** Personnel deployed to ALS emergency responses shall include a minimum of two members trained at the emergency medical technician – paramedic level and two members trained at the emergency medical technician – basic level arriving on scene within the established response time.

### **5.3.4 Quality Management.**

**5.3.4.1** The fire department shall institute a quality management program to ensure that the service has appropriate response times as required in 4.1.2.1.1 for all medical responses.

**5.3.4.2** All first responder and BLS medical care provided by the fire department shall be reviewed by the fire department medical personnel. This review process shall be documented.

**5.3.4.3** All fire departments with ALS services shall have a named medical director with the responsibility to oversee and ensure quality medical care in accordance with state or provincial laws or regulations. This review process shall be documented.

**5.3.4.4** Fire departments providing ALS services shall provide a mechanism for immediate communications with EMS supervision and medical oversight.

### **5.4 Special Operations Response.**

**5.4.1** Special operations shall be organized to ensure that the fire department's special operations capability includes personnel, equipment, and resources to deploy the initial arriving



company and additional alarm assignments providing such services. The fire department shall be permitted to use established automatic mutual aid or mutual aid agreements to comply with the requirements of Section 5.4.

**5.4.2** The fire department shall adopt a special operations response plan and standard operating procedures that specify the role and responsibilities of the fire department and the authorized functions of members responding to hazardous materials emergency incidents.

**5.4.3** All fire department members who are expected to respond to emergency incidents beyond the first responder operations level for hazardous materials response shall be trained to the applicable requirements of NFPA 472, *Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents*.

**5.4.4** All fire department members who are expected to respond to emergency incidents beyond the confined space operations level for confined space operations shall be trained to the applicable requirements of NFPA 1670, *Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents*.

**5.4.5** The fire department shall have the capacity to implement an RIC during all special operations incidents that would subject fire fighters to immediate danger of injury, or in the event of equipment failure or other sudden events, as required by NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*.

**5.4.6** If a higher level of emergency response is needed beyond the capability of the fire department for special operations, the fire department shall determine the availability of outside resources that deploy these capabilities and the procedures for initiating their response. The fire department shall be limited to performing only those specific special operations functions for which its personnel have been trained and are properly equipped.

## **5.5 Airport Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services.**

**5.5.1** Airport fire departments shall adopt operations response plan and standard operating procedures (SOPs) that specify the roles and responsibilities for non-aircraft incidents as required by 5.1.2.

**5.5.2** Airport rescue and fire-fighting operations shall be organized to ensure that the fire department's capability includes personnel, equipment, and resources to deploy the initial arriving company, the full initial alarm assignment, and additional alarm assignments as required in 5.2.3.

**5.5.3** Airport fire departments shall have access to special tools, equipment, supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other airport resources that are required to perform operations safely and effectively in their assigned roles and responsibilities.

### **5.5.4 Deployment.**

**5.5.4.1** The airport fire department's ARFF resources shall deploy the required number of vehicles as required for the airport assigned category as established by NFPA 403, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services at Airports*.

**5.5.4.2** Airport fire department companies equipped with specialized apparatus and equipment shall be provided to assist ARFF companies where deemed necessary as identified in 5.5.1.

**5.5.4.3** Airport fire department companies that deploy to structural incidents on airport property shall meet the response time requirements of 4.1.2.1.1.

**5.5.4.4** Airport fire department companies that deploy to emergency medical incidents on airport property shall meet the response time requirements of 5.3.3.4.

**5.5.4.5** The airport fire department shall be permitted to use established automatic mutual aid or mutual aid agreements to comply with the requirements of Section 5.5.

### **5.5.5 Staffing.**

**5.5.5.1** Airport fire department ARFF companies shall be staffed as required by NFPA 403, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services at Airports*.

**5.5.5.2** Airport fire department companies that deploy to structural incidents on airport property shall meet the staffing requirements of 5.2.1.

**5.5.5.3** Airport fire department companies that deploy to emergency medical incidents on airport property shall meet the staffing requirements of 5.3.3.3.

### **5.5.6 Emergency Operations.**

**5.5.6.1** At all emergency scene operations, an Incident Management System shall be used that meets the requirements of Section 6.2.

**5.5.6.2\*** Incident command shall be established outside of the hazard area for the overall coordination and direction of the initial full alarm assignment.

**5.5.6.3** An individual shall be dedicated to this task of Incident Commander.

**5.5.6.4** An incident safety officer shall be deployed to all incidents that escalate beyond a full alarm assignment or when there is a significant risk to fire fighters. The incident safety officer shall ensure that the safety and health system is established as required in Section 6.1.

## **5.6\* Marine Rescue and Fire-Fighting (MRFF) Services.**

**5.6.1** MRFF operations shall be organized to ensure that the fire department's marine capability includes personnel, equipment, and resources to deploy to the alarm assignments associated with a marine emergency incident.

**5.6.2** The fire department shall adopt a marine operations response plan and SOPs that specify the roles and responsibilities of the fire department and the authorized functions of members responding to marine emergencies.

**5.6.2.1** Fire department marine SOPs shall be coordinated with the applicable agencies, such as the port or harbor authority and supporting agencies.

**5.6.3** Marine fire departments shall have access to special tools, equipment, supplies, PPE, and other marine resources that are required to perform operations safely and effectively in their assigned roles and responsibilities.

### **5.6.4 Staffing.**

**5.6.4.1** On-duty marine personnel shall be comprised of the numbers necessary for safe and effective fire-fighting performance relative to the expected MRFF conditions.

**5.6.4.1.1** These numbers shall be determined through task analyses as required for types of marine vessels and through

additional task analyses that take the following factors into consideration:

- (1) Life hazard to the populace protected
- (2) Provisions of safe and effective fire-fighting performance conditions for the fire fighters
- (3) Potential property loss
- (4) Nature, configuration, hazards, and internal protection of the properties involved
- (5) Types of tactics and evolutions employed as standard procedure, type of marine vessel used, and results expected to be obtained at the fire scene
- (6) Requirements of the regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over navigable waters, ports, and harbors

**5.6.4.2** On-duty personnel assigned to marine fire fighting shall be organized into company units and shall have appropriate vessels and equipment assigned to such companies.

**5.6.4.2.1** Each marine company shall be led by an officer who shall be considered a part of the company.

#### **5.6.5 Operating Units.**

**5.6.5.1\*** Fire companies whose primary function is to deliver and pump water and extinguishing agents at the scene of a marine incident shall be known as marine companies.

**5.6.5.2** These companies shall be staffed with a minimum number of on-duty personnel as required by the tactical and occupancy hazards to which the marine vessel responds and by the regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over navigable waters, ports, and harbors.

#### **5.7 Wildland Fire Suppression Services.**

**5.7.1** Wildland fire suppression operations shall be organized to ensure that the fire department's wildland fire suppression capability includes personnel, equipment, and resources to deploy wildland direct operations that can address marginal situations before they get out of control and wildland indirect fire-fighting operations that can be assembled and placed into operation against major wildland fires.

**5.7.2** Fire departments performing wildland operations shall adopt a wildland fire-fighting operations response plan and SOPs that specify the roles and responsibilities of the fire department and the authorized functions of members responding to wildland fire emergencies.

**5.7.2.1** All wildland fire suppression operations shall be organized to ensure compliance with NFPA 295, *Standard for Wild-fire Control*.

**5.7.3** Fire departments performing wildland operations shall have access to special tools, equipment, supplies, PPE, and other wildland resources that are required to perform operations safely and effectively in their assigned roles and responsibilities.

#### **5.7.4 Staffing.**

**5.7.4.1** On-duty wildland fire-fighting personnel shall be comprised of the numbers necessary for safe and effective fire-fighting performance relative to the expected wildland fire-fighting conditions.

**5.7.4.1.1** These numbers shall be determined through task analyses that take the following factors into consideration:

- (1) Life hazard to the populace protected

- (2) Provisions of safe and effective fire-fighting performance conditions for the fire fighters
- (3) The number of trained response personnel available to the department including mutual aid resources
- (4) Potential property loss
- (5) Nature, configuration, hazards, and internal protection of the properties involved
- (6) Types of wildland tactics and evolutions employed as standard procedure, type of apparatus used, and results expected to be obtained at the fire scene
- (7) Topography, vegetation, and terrain in the response area(s)

**5.7.4.2** On-duty personnel assigned to wildland operations shall be organized into company units and shall have appropriate apparatus and equipment assigned to such companies.

**5.7.4.2.1** The fire department shall identify minimum company staffing levels as necessary to meet the deployment criteria to ensure that a sufficient number of members are assigned, on duty, and available to safely and effectively respond with each company.

**5.7.4.2.2** Each company shall be led by an officer who shall be considered a part of the company.

**5.7.4.2.3** Supervisory chief officers shall be dispatched or notified to respond to all full alarm assignments. The supervisory chief officer shall ensure that the incident management system is established as required in Section 6.2.

#### **5.7.5 Operating Units.**

**5.7.5.1** Fire companies whose primary function is to deliver and pump water and extinguishing agents at the scene of a wildland fire shall be known as wildland companies.

**5.7.5.1.1** These companies shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty personnel.

**5.7.5.2** Engine and ladder (truck) companies that respond to wildland fire-fighting and/or urban interface wildland fire-fighting incidents shall be staffed as required by 5.2.2.

**5.7.5.3** Other types of companies equipped with specialized apparatus and equipment for wildland fire fighting, including aircraft, heavy equipment, mini pumpers, and fast attack vehicles, shall be provided to assist wildland engine and ladder companies where deemed necessary as part of established practice.

**5.7.5.3.1** These companies shall be staffed with a minimum number of on-duty personnel as required by the tactical, topographical, environmental, fuel (vegetation), and occupancy hazards.

#### **5.7.6 Deployment.**

**5.7.6.1 Required Number of Vehicles.** The fire department's wildland resources shall deploy the required number of vehicles as required for a direct and/or an indirect attack.

**5.7.6.1.1\*** Prior to the initiation of any wildland fire attack, the fire department shall have the capacity to establish a look-out(s), communications with all crew members, escape route(s), and safety zone(s) for vehicles and personnel.

#### **5.7.6.2 Direct Attack.**

**5.7.6.2.1** The fire department shall have the capability to safely initiate a direct wildland attack within 10 minutes after arrival of the initial company or crew at the fire scene.

**5.7.6.2.2** One individual in the first arriving company or crew shall be assigned as the incident commander for the overall coordination and direction of the direct attack activities.

**5.7.6.2.3** The direct wildland attack shall include the following:

- (1) Establishment of an effective water flow application rate of 111 L/min (30 gpm) from at least two 150 m (500 ft) 1½ in. diameter attack handlines from two engines. Each attack handline shall be operated by a minimum of two personnel to effectively and safely deploy and maintain the line.
- (2) Provision of one operator who shall remain with each fire apparatus supplying water flow to ensure uninterrupted water flow application.
- (3) Provision of a wildland crew leader or company officer with each crew who shall be responsible for overall supervision of each of the crew and for maintaining personnel accountability and crew safety.

#### **5.7.6.3 Indirect Attack.**

**5.7.6.3.1** The fire department providing wildland fire suppression operations shall have the capability to deploy an indirect attack, including application of water to the fire, engagement in search and rescue and preservation of property, accountability for personnel, and provision of support activities for those situations that are beyond the capability of the direct attack.

**5.7.6.3.2** An incident safety officer shall be deployed to all incidents that escalate beyond a direct attack alarm assignment or when there is a significant risk to fire fighters.

#### **5.7.7 Nonwildland Emergencies.**

**5.7.7.1** Wildland companies that deploy to structural incidents shall meet the response time requirements of 4.1.2.1.1.

**5.7.7.2** Wildland companies that deploy to emergency medical incidents shall meet the response time requirements of 4.1.2.1.1.

## **Chapter 6 Systems**

**6.1 Safety and Health System.** A fire-fighter occupational safety and health program shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*.

#### **6.2\* Incident Management System.**

**6.2.1** An incident management system shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 1561, *Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System*, to form the basic structure of all emergency operations of the fire department, regardless of the scale of the department or the emergency.

**6.2.2\*** An effective incident management system shall be designed to manage incidents of different types, including structure fires, wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, emergency medical operations, and other types of emergencies that could be handled by the department.

**6.3 Training Systems.** The fire department shall have a training program and policy that ensures that personnel are trained and competency is maintained to execute all responsi-

bilities consistent with the department's organization and deployment as addressed in Chapters 4 and 5.

#### **6.4 Communications Systems.**

**6.4.1** The fire department shall have a reliable communications system to facilitate prompt delivery of public fire suppression, emergency medical services, and special operations.

**6.4.2** All communications facilities, equipment, staffing, and operating procedures shall comply with NFPA 1221, *Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems*.

**6.4.3** Operating procedures for radio communications shall provide for the use of standard protocols and terminology at all types of incidents.

**6.4.3.1** Standard terminology, in compliance with NFPA 1561, *Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System*, shall be established to transmit information, including strategic modes of operation, situation reports, and emergency notifications of imminent hazards.

**6.5\* Pre-Incident Planning.** The fire department shall set forth operational requirements to conduct pre-incident planning. Particular attention shall be provided to all target hazards.

## **Annex A Explanatory Material**

*Annex A is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only. This annex contains explanatory material, numbered to correspond with the applicable text paragraphs.*

**A.1.1** The standard includes minimum requirements that are intended to provide effective, efficient, and safe protective services that operate on a sound basis to prevent fires and reduce risk to lives and property, to deal with incidents that occur, and to prepare for anticipated incidents. It sets minimum standards considered necessary for the provision of public fire protection by career fire departments. It addresses the structure and operation of organizations providing such services, including fire suppression and other assigned emergency response responsibilities, which include emergency medical services and special operations.

**A.1.2.1** A fundamental concept of fire risk is associated with modern society. Public fire service organizations are expected to reduce the risk within their areas of jurisdiction by taking measures to prevent the outbreak of fires, to limit the extent and severity of fires, to provide for the removal or rescue of endangered persons, to control and extinguish fires that occur within the jurisdiction, and to perform other emergency response operations and delivery of emergency medical services.

The cumulative effects of preventive efforts, risk reduction and control, and fire suppression capabilities result in variable levels of risk to the jurisdictions and their residents.

The risk remaining after deducting the cumulative effect of the public fire service organization's efforts is the responsibility of each individual, including owners, operators, occupants, and casual visitors to properties. It should be noted that fire risk cannot be completely avoided or eliminated.

**A.3.2.1 Approved.** The National Fire Protection Association does not approve, inspect, or certify any installations, procedures, equipment, or materials; nor does it approve or evalu-



ate testing laboratories. In determining the acceptability of installations, procedures, equipment, or materials, the authority having jurisdiction may base acceptance on compliance with NFPA or other appropriate standards. In the absence of such standards, said authority may require evidence of proper installation, procedure, or use. The authority having jurisdiction may also refer to the listings or labeling practices of an organization that is concerned with product evaluations and is thus in a position to determine compliance with appropriate standards for the current production of listed items.

**A.3.2.2 Authority Having Jurisdiction.** The phrase “authority having jurisdiction” is used in NFPA documents in a broad manner, since jurisdictions and approval agencies vary, as do their responsibilities. Where public safety is primary, the authority having jurisdiction may be a federal, state, local, or other regional department or individual such as a fire chief; fire marshal; chief of a fire prevention bureau, labor department, or health department; building official; electrical inspector; or others having statutory authority. For insurance purposes, an insurance inspection department, rating bureau, or other insurance company representative may be the authority having jurisdiction. In many circumstances, the property owner or his or her designated agent assumes the role of the authority having jurisdiction; at government installations, the commanding officer or departmental official may be the authority having jurisdiction.

**A.3.3.1.1 Automatic Aid.** The capabilities of personnel and equipment for a predetermined response to a neighboring jurisdiction upon receipt of an alarm, this process is accomplished through simultaneous dispatch, is documented in writing, and is included as part of a communication center’s dispatch protocols.

**A.3.3.1.2 Mutual Aid.** A written policy or contract that allows for the deployment of personnel and equipment to respond to an alarm in another jurisdiction, this is part of the written deployment criteria for response to alarms as dispatched by a communication center. (See also 3.3.1.1.)

**A.3.3.2 Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting.** Such rescue and fire-fighting actions are performed both inside and outside of the aircraft.

**A.3.3.3 Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting (ARFF) Vehicle.** The apparatus is typically equipped with a large water tank (commencing at 1000 gal and extending to over 6000 gal); a supply of fire-fighting extinguishing agents; remote-controlled large roof turret(s), extendable turret nozzle(s), and bumper turret(s) (ground sweep nozzles) that are used for the discharge of extinguishing agent; and pre-connected handlines.

**A.3.3.4 Airport Fire Department Personnel.** These individuals can also be responsible for additional fire protection and suppression, emergency medical, and other emergency response within the boundaries of the airport facility.

**A.3.3.5 Alarm.** In some jurisdictions this is referred to as an incident or call for service.

**A.3.3.6 Apparatus.** Examples include fire engines, water tenders, and ladder trucks.

**A.3.3.8 Company.** For fire suppression, jurisdictions exist where the response capability of the initial arriving company is configured with the response of two apparatus. In some jurisdictions, apparatus is not configured with seated and belted positions for four personnel and therefore would respond

with an additional vehicle in consort with the initial arriving engine to carry additional personnel. This response would be to ensure that a minimum of four personnel are assigned to and deployed as a company. The intent of this definition and the requirements in the standard are to ensure that these two (or more) pieces of apparatus would always be dispatched and respond together as a single company. Some examples of this include the following:

- (1) Engine and tanker/tender that would be responding outside a municipal water district
- (2) Multiple-piece company assignment, specified in a fire department’s response SOPs, such as an engine company response with a pumper and a hose wagon
- (3) Engine with a vehicle personnel carrier
- (4) Engine with an ambulance or rescue unit

“Company,” as used in this standard, is synonymous with company unit, response team, crew, and response group, rather than a synonym for a fire department.

**A.3.3.16 Fire Suppression.** Fire suppression includes all activities performed at the scene of a fire incident or training exercise that expose fire department members to the dangers of heat, flame, smoke, and other products of combustion, explosion, or structural collapse.

**A.3.3.17 First Responder (EMS).** The first responder also assists higher level emergency medical service providers.

**A.3.3.19 Hazard.** Hazards include the characteristics of facilities, equipment systems, property, hardware, or other objects; and the actions and inactions of people that create such hazards.

**A.3.3.21 High Hazard Occupancy.** Also included would be high-risk residential occupancies, neighborhoods with structures in close proximity to one another, special medical occupancies, high-rise occupancies, and hazardous materials occupancies.

**A.3.3.23 Incident Management System (IMS).** Such systems are often referred to as incident command systems (ICS).

**A.3.3.27.2 Basic Life Support (BLS).** Basic life support personnel also assist higher level EMS providers.

**A.3.3.28 Marine Rescue and Fire Fighting.** Marine companies can be utilized for special operations, including a platform for dive and scuba operations and for providing a secure water supply for land-based operations.

**A.3.3.29 Member.** A fire department member can be a full-time or part-time employee or a paid or unpaid volunteer, can occupy any position or rank within the fire department, and can engage in emergency operations.

**A.3.3.30.1 Company Officer.** This person can be someone appointed in an acting capacity. The rank structure could be either sergeant, lieutenant, or captain.

**A.3.3.30.2 Supervisory Chief Officer.** A supervisory chief officer is above that of a company officer, who responds automatically and/or is dispatched to an alarm beyond the initial alarm capabilities, or other special calls. In some jurisdictions this is the rank of battalion chief, district chief, deputy chief, assistant chief, or senior divisional officer (UK fire service).

**A.3.3.31 Public Fire Department.** The term *fire department* includes any public, governmental, private, or military organization engaging in this type of activity.



**A.3.3.33 Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC).** The RIC report directly to the incident commander or operations chief. This dedicated crew is not to be confused with the IRIC.

**A.3.3.36 Special Operations.** Special operations include water rescue, extrication, hazardous materials, confined space entry, high-angle rescue, aircraft rescue and fire fighting, and other operations requiring specialized training.

**A.3.3.37 Staff Aide.** This member is assigned to a supervisory chief officer who assists at incident scene operations, which can include personnel accountability, communications, and other logistical and administrative support. In addition, this member can assist in coordinating training activities, respond to citizen inquiries, coordinate staffing issues and sick leave follow-up, and resource allocations for facilities and apparatus under the supervisory chief officer's jurisdiction. Staff aides can be known as field incident technician, staff assistant, battalion fire fighter, or battalion adjutant.

**A.3.3.42.3 Dispatch Time.** Dispatch times are addressed in NFPA 1221, *Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems*. These include call-taking and call-processing requirements.

**A.4.1.1** The authority having jurisdiction generally has the responsibility to determine the following:

- (1) Scope and level of service provided by the fire department
- (2) Necessary level of funding
- (3) Necessary level of personnel and resources, including facilities

In order to provide service, the authority having jurisdiction should have the power to levy taxes or solicit funding, to own property and equipment, and to cover personnel costs. The authority necessary is conveyed by law to a local jurisdiction.

In addition, the governing body also should monitor the achievement of the management goals of the department, such as fire prevention, community life safety education, fire suppression, employee training, communications, maintenance, and department administration.

The organizational statement is a very important basis for many of the provisions of this standard. The statement sets forth the legal basis for operating a fire department, the organizational structure of the fire department, number of members, training requirements, expected functions, and authorities and responsibilities of various members or defined positions.

A key point is to clearly set out the specific services the fire department is authorized and expected to perform. Most fire departments are responsible to a governing body. The governing body has the right and should assert its authority to set the specific services and the limits of the services the fire department will provide, and it has the responsibility to furnish the necessary resources for delivery of the designated services. The fire department should provide its governing body with a specific description of each service with options or alternatives and an accurate analysis of the costs and resources needed for each service.

Such services could include structural fire fighting, wildland fire fighting, airport/aircraft fire fighting, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, high angle rescue, heavy rescue, and others.

Spelling out the specific parameters of services to be provided allows the fire department to plan, staff, equip, train,

and deploy members to perform these duties. It also gives the governing body an accounting of the costs of services and allows it to select those services they can afford to provide. Likewise, the governing body should identify services it cannot afford to provide and cannot authorize the fire department to deliver, or it should assign those services to another agency.

The fire department should be no different than any other government agency that has the parameters of its authority and services clearly defined by the governing body.

Legal counsel should be used to ensure that any statutory services and responsibilities are being met.

The majority of public fire departments are established under the charter provisions of their governing body or through the adoption of statutes. These acts define the legal basis for operating a fire department, the mission of the organization, the duties that are authorized and expected to be performed, and the authority and responsibilities that are assigned to certain individuals to direct the operations of the fire department.

The documents that officially establish the fire department as an identifiable organization are necessary to determine specific responsibilities and to determine the parties responsible for compliance with the provisions of this standard.

In many cases, these documents can be part of state laws, a municipal charter, or an annual budget. In such cases, it would be appropriate to make these existing documents part of the organizational statement, if applicable.

**A.4.1.2** There can be incidents or areas where the response criteria are impacted by circumstances such as response personnel who are not on duty, nonstaffed fire station facilities, natural barriers, traffic congestion, insufficient water supply, and density of population or property. The reduced level of service should be documented in the written organizational statement by the percentage of incidents and geographical areas for which the response time criteria are achieved.

**A.4.1.2.1.1(2)** This service delivery requirement is intended to have a fire department plan and situate its resources to consistently meet a 4-minute initial company fire suppression response and an 8-minute full alarm fire response assignment. However, it is recognized that while on some occasions (for example, a company is out of service for training) the initial company response may not be met in the 4-minute requirement, the 8-minute criterion must always be met.

**A.4.4.2** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require that all fire departments be trained to respond to hazardous materials incidents at the first responder operations level.

Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), known as the Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know Act, established requirements for federal, state, and local governments and industrial facilities regarding emergency planning for spills or other releases, and community right-to-know reporting of hazardous and toxic chemicals.

The Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know Act of 1986 covers the following four major areas that will provide the fire service and communities with a broad perspective on the chemical hazards within the local area and those at individual facilities:

- (1) Sections 301 through 303 — emergency planning
- (2) Section 304 — emergency release notification
- (3) Sections 311 and 312 — community right-to-know reporting requirements
- (4) Section 313 — toxic chemical release inventory

**A.4.8.1** Where appropriate, the mutual aid agreement should include automatic responses on first alarms (automatic aid). This concept contemplates joint response of designated apparatus and personnel on a predetermined running assignment basis.

Mutual aid concepts should be considered on a regional basis. In an effective mutual aid arrangement, each fire department should retain reserves of personnel and apparatus. Traditionally and legally, overall command of the incident is vested with the senior officer of the jurisdiction experiencing the emergency.

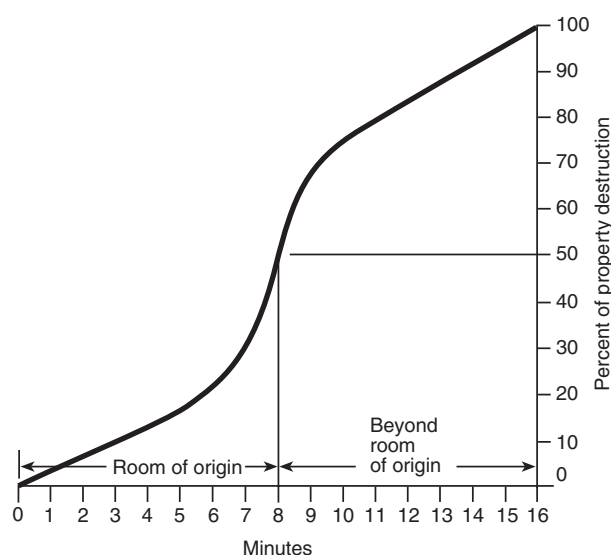
Some areas use consolidated dispatching to coordinate the response of fire companies to assist an outside fire department. The management of responses can be made easier by utilizing computerization, “running cards,” and other advance planning.

**A.5.2** Suppression capability is an expression of how much fire-fighting power can be put into action when there is a fire. It includes the amount of apparatus, equipment, and personnel available; the time needed to respond and place equipment in action; the water supply; the application of strategy and tactics; the level of training; and all of the components that add up to effective fireground operations.

**A.5.2.1.1** For more information, see NFPA 1250, *Recommended Practice in Emergency Service Organization Risk Management*; FEMA, National Fire Academy, “Fire Risk Analysis: A Systems Approach”; Phoenix, AZ Fire Department, “Fire Department Evaluation System (FIREDAPE).”

**A.5.2.1.2** For further information on companies, see 3.3.8 and A.3.3.8.

**A.5.2.1.2.1** An early aggressive and offensive primary interior attack on a working fire, where feasible, is usually the most effective strategy to reduce loss of lives and property damage. In Figure A.5.2.1.2.1 the line represents a rate of fire propagation, which combines temperature rise and time. It roughly corresponds to the percentage of property destruction. At approximately 10 minutes into the fire sequence, the hypothetical room of origin flashes over. Extension outside the room begins at this point.



**FIGURE A.5.2.1.2.1** Fire propagation curve.

Consequently, given that the progression of a structural fire to the point of flashover (i.e., the very rapid spreading of the fire due to superheating of room contents and other combustibles) generally occurs in less than 10 minutes, two of the most important elements in limiting fire spread are the quick arrival of sufficient numbers of personnel and equipment to attack and extinguish the fire as close to the point of its origin as possible. For more information, refer to *Fire Service Today*, “Reduced Staffing: At What Cost,” and NIST, “Hazard I Fire Hazard Assessment Method.” Also, refer to National Fire Academy, “Fire Risk Analysis: A Systems Approach,” and Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal, *Shaping the Future of Fire Ground Staffing and Delivery Systems within a Comprehensive Fire Safety Effectiveness Model*.

The ability of adequate fire suppression forces to greatly influence the outcome of a structural fire is undeniable and predictable. Data generated by NFPA provides empirical data that rapid and aggressive interior attack can substantially reduce the human and property losses associated with structural fires (see Table A.5.2.1.2.1).

**Table A.5.2.1.2.1** Fire Extension in Residential Structures 1994–1998

Extension	Rate per 1000 Fires		
	Civilian Deaths	Civilian Injuries	Dollar Loss per Fire
Confined to the room of origin	2.32	35.19	3,185
Beyond the room but confined to the floor of origin	19.68	96.86	22,720
Beyond the floor of origin	26.54	63.48	31,912

Note: Residential structures include dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes (also called mobile homes), apartments, row houses, townhouses, hotels and motels, dormitories, and barracks.

Source: NFPA Annual Fire Experience Survey and National Fire Incident Reporting System.

**A.5.2.1.2.3** The assignment of specific response districts to command officers should be based on the number of companies, workload, and response distances. Department administrative procedures should indicate clearly the jurisdiction of command officers.

**A.5.2.1.2.5** For further information on staff aides, see 3.3.37.

**A.5.2.3.1.2** NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*; 29 CFR 1910.134; and U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, *Memorandum for Regional Administration and State Designees; Response to IDLH or Potential IDLH Atmospheres*.

The initial rapid intervention crew (IRIC) and the rapid intervention crew (RIC) members are equipped with the fire fighters’ protective ensemble, including protective clothing and equipment as required by NFPA 1500.

**A.5.2.3.2.1** For the purposes of this standard, the initial full alarm assignment capability is for a response to a structural fire in a typical 264 m<sup>2</sup> (2000 ft<sup>2</sup>), two-story, single-family occupancy without a basement and with no exposures (detached home). All communities respond to fire incidents in this type