NFPA No.

403

# AIRCRAFT RESCUE & FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES AT AIRPORTS 1972

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NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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This material has been developed in the interest of safety to life and property under the published procedures of the National Fire Protection Association. These procedures are designed to assure the appointment of technically competent Committees having balanced representation from those vitally interested and active in the areas with which the Committees are concerned. These procedures provide that all Committee recommendations shall be published prior to action on them by the Association itself and that following this publication these recommendations shall be presented for adoption to the Annual Meeting of the Association where anyone in attendance, member or not, may present his views. While these procedures assure the highest degree of care, neither the National Fire Protection Association, its members, nor those participating in its activities accepts any liability resulting from compliance or noncompliance with the provisions given herein, for any restrictions imposed on materials or processes, or for the completeness of the text.

**Recommended Practice for**

# Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Services at Airports and Heliports

**NFPA No. 403 — 1972**

**ANSI Z213.1**

## 1972 Edition of No. 403

This Recommended Practice, prepared by the NFPA Sectional Committee on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting and submitted to the Association through the NFPA Committee on Aviation, was adopted by the Association at its 76th Annual Meeting on May 16, 1972 in Philadelphia, Pa. This edition supersedes all previous editions of NFPA No. 403. The changes this year revise the 1971 text by combining the separate Tables in Article 300 to reduce the number of airport indexes with no significant changes in the amounts of agents required, but with some modest revisions in the aircraft groupings. In addition, improvements have been made in Article 800 covering training of personnel. These revisions have resulted in changes to Pars. 112, 213.b(2)., 217.b, 311.e, 311.f, 312.a, 312.b, 312.c, 313.a, 314, 315.a, 412, 417, 421, 441, 482, 483, 483a. (Note), 483.b, 483.c, 487, 621, and 812. Also, Tables 1 (including 1A and 1B) and C-1 are revised and new Sections 850–870 have been added, plus Paragraph A-216. Reference material has also been updated.

The 1971 edition of this standard was approved by the American National Standards Institute under date of January 28, 1972 and designated ANSI Z213.1 — 1972. The 1972 edition is being submitted for similar approval. The ANSI designation and date of approval will be printed on the front cover of copies of this edition printed after approval has been received.

## Origin and Development of No. 403

Committee work leading to the development of this recommended practice by the Association commenced in 1947 following a request from the Civil Aeronautics Board (U.S.A.) for information on what constituted "adequate" ground fire fighting equipment and personnel for airports served by air carrier aircraft.

NFPA Committee work continued during 1948 and in 1949 the Association adopted a tentative text at its Annual Meeting held in San Francisco, California. In 1952 a revised text was submitted for adoption by the Association, and unanimously accepted. Since its original adoption, this text has been revised periodically with editions issued in 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970, and 1971, prior to this edition.

In June, 1948, the International Civil Aviation Organization distributed ICAO Circular 4 — AN/3 which contained the recommendations on this subject. In February 1955, the ICAO reproduced the 1954 editions of this text and NFPA No. 402 in ICAO Circular 41 — AN/36. These publications are now obsolete. During December 1956, the ICAO sponsored a meeting of a specially constituted international "Panel on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Services at Aerodromes" to develop "specifications or further guidance material" on the subject.

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Scope: To promote fire safety during the operation, maintenance, servicing and storage of aircraft and in the operation of airports and associated functions. The Committee is a policy-making Steering Committee of the NFPA Sectional Committees organized to handle specific technical problems in the aviation field. Reports prepared by the Sectional Committees are circulated for letter ballot to the members of this Committee and the results reported to the Annual Meeting of the Association.

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SCOPE: To develop fire safety recommendations for aircraft rescue and fire fighting with particular attention to the rescue problem coincident to fires following impacts. This Sectional Committee is responsible for specialized equipment, facilities and training procedures for airport fire departments and guidance for handling aircraft emergencies by public fire services. This Sectional Committee reports to the Association through the Aviation Committee.

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Subsequent ICAO Panel Meetings were held in 1962, 1968 and 1970. The current recommendations of ICAO are contained in "Annex 14" (Aerodromes) to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (available from ICAO, International Aviation Building, 1080 University Street, Montreal 3, Quebec, Canada, and from their Regional Offices in France, Peru, Senegal, Thailand, and the United Arab Republic) in English, French, and Spanish editions. ICAO Aerodrome Manual, Part 5 (Equipment, Procedures, and Services), contains an extensive chapter on Rescue and Fire Fighting, and a Supplement on Aircraft Data for Fire Fighting and Rescue Crews. Part 6 (Heliports) discusses Rescue and Fire Fighting as practiced in the United Kingdom and U.S.A. Each of these publications is available in the same languages from the same source. In addition, ICAO has published a Training Manual for Aerodrome Fire Services Personnel (Part 16), available for 75 cents per copy. (See also page 403–55 herein.)

The Federal Aviation Administration (U.S.A.) has issued a "Notice of Proposed Rule Making" (Notice 71–14), published in the Federal Register, Friday, May 14, 1971 (Volume 36, No. 94), Pages 8880–8889, on Airport Operating Certificates which includes proposed minimum airport fire fighting and rescue equipment and service for airports serving air carriers certificated by the Civil Aeronautics Board.

# Table of Contents

**Recommended Practice for**

# Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Services at Airports and Heliports*

**NFPA No. 403 — 1972**

## Article 100. Introduction

### 110. Application

**111.** This recommended practice applies to aircraft rescue and fire fighting services at airports and heliports; it does not include fire protection facilities for airport structures (*i.e.*, hangars, shops, terminals, other airport buildings, etc.), although the equipment and manpower made available to perform these services might constitute valuable fire protection for such structures and their contents in many instances. Vehicles designed for aircraft rescue and fire fighting services are covered in the NFPA Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (No. 414; ANSI B128.1); their recommended use is outlined in NFPA Standard Operating Procedures, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (No. 402); and methods for on-site testing of certain of these vehicles are given in the NFPA Standard for Evaluating Foam Fire Fighting Equipment on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (No. 412). Any consideration given to the structural fire fighting capability of these vehicles may be only to the extent that any design features or equipment added do not detract from their primary purpose.

**112.** Heliports designed *exclusively* for handling helicopter operations are generally limited in area and are separately evaluated as regards helicopter rescue and fire fighting services. For the purposes of this text, the term "heliport" shall include all areas exclusively used for helicopter operations, including such areas referred to as "helipads" and "helistops." Heliports may be located at ground level, on platforms constructed specifically for the purpose, or on the roofs of buildings. The degree of fire protection recommended depends on the size of the helicopters, the number of occupants, the maximum operational fuel load of the helicopters using the facility, personnel available for rescue and fire fighting purposes and the frequency of operations (see Paragraph 314 and Table 2).

*See Appendix for a bibliography of other helpful information on aircraft rescue and fire fighting and airport fire safety.

## 120. Type of Aircraft Operations Safeguarded

**121.** The threat of fire is ever present and may occur at any time when an aircraft is involved in either operational or servicing accidents. Experience has shown that severe problems of rescue are encountered when fire occurs incident to operational accidents. Fire is especially apt to occur immediately following ground impact in operational accidents (but may occur at any time during rescue operations) because of the nature of the aircraft fuel and lubricants used, rupture or damage to the fuel containing structures or associated plumbing, the latent heat of operating aircraft engines, exhaust flames and hot gases, the possibility of sparks being created through disturbance of electrical circuits or from friction, or the discharge of accumulated electrostatic charges at time of ground contact. The outstanding characteristic of aircraft fires is their tendency to reach lethal intensity within a very short time after outbreak. This not only handicaps rescue efforts but also presents a severe hazard to the lives of those involved in the accident and anyone attempting their rescue.

**122.** All aircraft do not have identical crash impact fire dangers. Aircraft design features which tend to improve the "crashworthiness" of the aircraft must be considered. Opportunities to assist in the rescue of aircraft occupants involved in an aircraft accident will vary with virtually every accident. In addition the opportunities for effective rescue will depend on the nature and extent of the impact injuries sustained by the occupants, the adequacy of the aircraft exit facilities available and in service, the extent of the fire conditions prevailing at the time rescue efforts are initiated, the availability of trained personnel and proper equipment to achieve the rescue and fire control mission, and other factors. In addition, the aircraft rescue and fire fighting services provided at each airport will differ somewhat due to the types of aircraft operations, the extent of such operations, and other special factors. Each individual airport should consider the application of these recommendations to its own needs and increases made in the scale of protection where a fire protection engineering analysis justifies. The application of these recommendations to airports is thus subject to discriminating use, although experience has indicated that the recommendations contained herein will provide a reasonable degree of protection in most situations.

## 130. Location of Accidents

**131.** The possibility of aircraft accidents is constantly present throughout the extent of air routes. The accident potential is greatest, however, on the movement areas of airports or heliports and in their immediate vicinity due to the concentration of air traffic found in the described areas and the operational hazards associated with aircraft landings, takeoffs, and taxiing and the servicing of aircraft (fueling operations and aircraft maintenance). For this reason, the provision of special means to deal with incidents on and in the immediate vicinity of such movement areas is of primary importance. It is within such limits that there are the greatest opportunities of saving life and property.

## 140. Nature of Recommendations

**141.** These recommendations give guidance on the amount and type of services to provide a reasonable degree of aircraft rescue and fire fighting protection for aircraft operations at civil airports and heliports. The recommendations are based on providing effective control of aircraft fires to achieve any needed rescue of personnel likely to be involved in "survivable" types of aircraft accidents and to provide a reasonable degree of mobile fire protection for airport ramp and movement areas.

## 150. Administrative Control

**151.** Aircraft rescue and fire fighting on the movement area of an airport should be under the administrative control of airport management *except* where the aircraft rescue and fire fighting services at airports are organized as a part of a municipal (or similar regional) or a federal fire service and are thus under the *direct* administrative jurisdiction of the Chief of the municipal, regional, or federal Fire Department. Under the latter conditions close liaison with airport management is essential to integrate fire department and aircraft operations to assure effective and safe response of emergency equipment on the movement area of the airport.

**152.** Where aircraft rescue and fire fighting services are not under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the Chief of a municipal, regional or federal fire service, airport management should exercise administrative control whether such management is a governmental agency, a private corporation or an individual, and irrespective of how the aircraft rescue and fire fighting services are financed and/or organized. Airport management should also have administrative duties in connection with aircraft rescue and fire fighting services within the reasonably accessible environs of the airport movement area *where* there is no conflict with the administrative jurisdiction of suitably organized and equipped municipal, regional, or federal fire services.

**153.** Regardless of the administrative control of aircraft rescue and fire fighting services on the airport, a prearranged high degree of mutual aid (joint defense measures) is desirable between such services on airports and any municipal (or similar regional) fire or rescue agencies serving the environs of the airport. An "area emergency plan" is desirable and airport management should encourage and offer instruction to cooperating departments in aircraft rescue and fire fighting. See Paragraph 221.c. of NFPA No. 402.

**154.** The services of other available airport personnel not used for aircraft rescue and fire fighting should be utilized to perform specific duties during an emergency, such as: aircraft evacuation; scene security; first aid assistance; escort duty; transportation; etc.* These special crews should operate during an emergency under the direction of the officer in charge of the rescue and fire fighting services. Training should be under the direction of airport management or the authority having administrative jurisdiction of the aircraft rescue and fire fighting services. Insurance coverage for such personnel while assisting in emergencies should be considered in the planning. After evacuation and completion of fire and rescue operations, the operator is responsible for the security of the aircraft unless a legally appointed accident investigation authority assumes responsibility.

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*See Standard Operating Procedures, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting, NFPA No. 402.

## Article 200. Basis for Recommendations on Extinguishing Agents

### 210. Types of Extinguishing Agents

**211.** In order to establish the types of extinguishing agents recommended for aircraft rescue and fire fighting, it is desirable to consider certain basic principles concerning the various agents available for the purpose. These are summarized in Paragraphs 212 through 216.

### 212. Water

**a.** Water is recognized as the best cooling agent universally available for the control of fire and for personnel protection from heat but the ability of water to effect extinguishment is limited on large flammable liquid based fires of the type usually encountered in accidents involving aircraft. Therefore, it is not recommended as the sole agent available for this type of fire fighting on airports.

NOTE: See the NFPA Guide for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Techniques for Fire Departments Using Conventional Fire Apparatus and Equipment (No. 406M) where specialized equipment is not available.

**b.** Water spray may be used effectively for the protection of trapped personnel in aircraft accidents involving fire and for the protection of rescue and fire fighting personnel from severe radiant heat conditions and its availability is therefore considered desirable.

**c.** The use of straight water streams discharged at high velocity is not considered desirable for aircraft rescue and fire fighting except where it is desired to "sweep" fuel spills from hazardous areas.

**d.** Wetting agents added to water improve its extinguishing efficiency on flammable liquid based fires but care must be exercised to assure compatibility if foam is a supplementary agent.

### 213. Foam

**a.** Foam is particularly suited for aircraft rescue and fire fighting because the basic ingredients, water and foam liquid concentrate, can be carried in bulk to the scene of the accident and brought into operation with a minimum of delay. The most serious limitation of foam for aircraft rescue and fire fighting is the problem of quickly supplying large quantities of foam to the fire in a gentle manner so as to form an impervious fire-resistant blanket on large flammable liquid spills. The hazards of disrupting established foam blankets by turbulence, water precipitation, and heat baking can be overcome by firemen's training and the purchase of a good quality of the basic foam ingredient. Foams used for controlling aircraft fires involving fuel spills are produced by the physical agitation of a mixture of water, air, and a foam-liquid concentrate. The foam produced should be able to cool hot surfaces, flow over a burning liquid surface, and form a long-lasting, air-excluding blanket that seals off volatile flammable vapors from access to air or oxygen. Good quality foam should be homogeneous, resisting disruption due to wind and draft or heat and flame attack. It should be capable of resealing in the event of mechanical rupture of an established blanket.

**b.** There are three major types of foam-liquid concentrates now used for aircraft rescue and fire fighting, namely

(1). **Protein-Foam Concentrates:** These concentrates consist primarily of products from a protein hydrolysate, plus stabilizing additives and inhibitors to protect against freezing, to prevent corrosion of equipment and containers, to resist bacterial decomposition, to control viscosity, and to otherwise assure readiness for use under emergency conditions. Current formulations are used at recommended nominal concentrations of 3 percent and 6 percent of the water discharge. Both types can be used to produce a suitable mechanical foam but the manufacturer of the foam-making equipment should be consulted as to the correct concentrate to be used in any particular system (the proportioners installed must be properly designed and/or set for the concentrate being used). Mixing foam liquids of different types or different manufacture should not be done unless it is established that they are completely interchangeable [see Paragraphs 213.b.(2) and (3)]. Some foam liquid concentrates produce a dry-chemical-compatible foam.

(2). **Aqueous-Film-Forming-Foam (AFFF) Concentrate*.** This concentrate consists of a fluorinated surfactant with a foam stabilizer which is diluted with fresh water in a 6 percent solution. (For use with salt water, consult the agent manufacturer.) The temperature of the AFFF concentrate must be above 32°F. when used, as otherwise the material may become more viscous and this could adversely affect pro-

*AFFF has been frequently referred to as "Light Water" in the trade. The term "Light Water" is a registered trade name of one manufacturer of the agent in the U.S.A.

portioning. The foam formed acts both as a barrier to exclude air or oxygen and to develop an aqueous film on the fuel surface capable of suppressing the evolution of fuel vapors. The foam blanket produced should be of such thickness as to be visible before fire fighters place reliance on its permanency as a vapor suppressant. AFFF concentrates meeting U. S. Military Specification MIL-F-24385 (Navy, dated 21 November 1969), with Amendments 1 and 2, have been found to be satisfactory for extinguishing fires involving aircraft fuels. AFFF concentrates are normally used in conventional foam-making devices suitable for producing protein foams as described in Paragraph 213.b.(1), but converting protein-foam-producing equipment for use with AFFF concentrates should not be accomplished without consultation with the manufacturer of the protein-foam equipment and a thorough flushing of the foam tank and complete system. Vehicles using in-line compressed air systems may require modifications. The foam produced with AFFF concentrate is dry-chemical-compatible and thus is suitable for combined use with dry chemicals. Protein and fluoroprotein foam concentrates are incompatible with AFFF concentrates and should not be mixed, although foams separately generated with these concentrates are compatible and can be applied to a fire in sequence or simultaneously. There are not sufficient data available at the present time to make a comparison between the foams developed by the use of AFFF concentrates and protein-based concentrates in relation to the homogeneity of the foam blanket, its resistance to disruption due to wind and draft or heat and flame attack, and its ability to reseal in event of mechanical rupture of the established film on the fuel surface. Until experience with the AFFF concentrate is accumulated in actual fire fighting operations, it is recommended that equal quantities of the AFFF concentrate be provided as are specified for protein-foams in Table 1B.

(3). **Fluoroprotein-Foam-Concentrates.** These concentrates are very similar to protein-foam concentrates as described in Paragraph 213.b.(1) with a synthetic fluorinated surfactants additive. They form an air-excluding foam blanket and may also deposit a vaporization-inhibiting film on the surface of a liquid fuel. These concentrates are used at recommended nominal concentrations of 3 percent and 6 percent of the water discharge. Both types can be used to produce a suitable mechanical foam, but the manufacturer of the foam-making equipment should be consulted as to the correct concentrate to be used in any particular system (the proportioners installed must be properly designed and/or set for the concentrate being used). Mixing foam liquid concentrates of different types or different manufacture should not be done unless it is established that they are completely interchangeable (see Paragraphs 213.b.(1) and 213.b.(2)). Compatibility of the foams produced using fluoroprotein-foam concentrates with any dry chemical agent programmed for use on a fire in sequence or simultaneously should be established by test.

**c.** Foam may be produced in a number of ways. The methods of foam production selected should be carefully weighed considering the techniques of employment best suited to the equipment concerned, the rates and patterns of discharge desired and the manpower needed to properly dispense the foam capabilities of the vehicles. The principal methods of foam production are:

(1). Nozzle Aspirating Systems. Foam is produced by pumping a proportioned solution of water and foam liquid concentrate under high pressure into a specialized discharge appliance or nozzle which draws in atmospheric air and mixes it with the solution. Various devices are used to shape the discharge pattern between a straight stream and a spray.

(2). In-Line Foam Pump Systems. A proportioned solution of water and foam liquid concentrate is injected at atmospheric or higher pressure into a positive displacement type pump which sucks in atmospheric air and mixes it with the solution to generate foam. The foam is formed in the discharge piping as in the in-line compressed air systems. Nozzles serve only to distribute the foam in various patterns.

(3). In-Line Aspirating Systems. An inductor in the pump discharge line receives a proportional solution of water and foam liquid concentrate under pressure, or water only if the inductor is designed also to draft the correct amount of foam liquid concentrate. The liquid, in passing through the inductor, draws in atmospheric air which is mixed with the solution to form foam in the discharge lines. Nozzles serve only to distribute the foam in various patterns.

(4). In-Line Compressed Air Systems. Air under pressure is injected into the proportioned solution of water and foam liquid concentrate where it is mixed with the solution to form foam within the system piping. The air is supplied by a compressor on the vehicle. Nozzles serve only to distribute the foam in various patterns.

**d.** Foam is currently applied in two principal pattern configurations — solid stream and dispersed patterns. Normally both methods of application are available using variable nozzles. Training and experience will determine the best method of application under a given set of circumstances. Foam when dispersed in wide, uniformly dispersed patterns (sometimes called "fog-foam") is used principally for direct application to a large area of burning fuel or while securing the rescue area. It falls very gently on the surface, giving radiation protection to the fire fighter and cooling and smothering the fire in a short time. Solid streams of foam are used principally for fire situations requiring long distance reach or where the foam may be deflected from a solid barrier to facilitate gentle application. Solid stream foam is not recommended for close-in rescue operations.

**e.** The quality of water used in making foam may affect foam performance. Locally available water may require adjustment of the proportioning device to achieve optimum foam quality. No corrosion inhibitors, freezing point depressants or any other additives should be used in the water supply without prior consultation and approval of the foam liquid concentrate manufacturer.

**f.** Where foam and dry chemical are used as supplementary agents, it is important to establish that the two agents are reasonably compatible when used simultaneously (e.g., that the foam qualifies as dry chemical-compatible and that the dry chemical is foam-compatible).

## 214. Carbon Dioxide

**a.** Carbon dioxide provides a means of quickly "knocking down" flammable liquid fires when applied at a proper rate and in sufficient quantity. It has excellent flooding characteristics and penetrates to otherwise inaccessible areas. It leaves no residue. As atmospheric conditions (particularly wind direction and velocity) may interfere with the smothering effect of carbon dioxide and as the cooling effect may not always be sufficient to prevent reignition of flammable vapors by hot or burning materials, a supplementary cooling and blanketing agent (foam or water) is normally necessary. Fireman's training has a great influence on the effective use of carbon dioxide. When liquid carbon dioxide is discharged to the atmosphere a portion is converted to "dry ice" at minus 110° F.

**b.** The following subparagraphs define "high pressure" and "low pressure" carbon dioxide:

(1). "High pressure" carbon dioxide is carbon dioxide stored in pressure containers at atmospheric temperatures. At 70° F. the pressure in this type of storage is 850 pounds per square inch. On airports, "high pressure" carbon dioxide is preferably limited to portable extinguishers and small cylinder systems used for standby protection on ramps and flight lines. The use of "high pressure" carbon dioxide cylinders manifolded together has not proved to be as effective for aircraft rescue and fire fighting work as "low pressure" equipment.

(2). "Low pressure" carbon dioxide is carbon dioxide stored in an insulated pressure container at controlled low temperatures, usually at 0° F. At this temperature the pressure in this type of storage is 300 pounds per square inch. Low pressure is used where large storage capacity and high discharge rates are required, as in aircraft rescue and fire fighting operations. The lower liquid temperature and higher discharge rate combine to produce greater cooling effect and longer reach.

**c.** Carbon dioxide is normally used in aircraft rescue and fire fighting service in one of the following ways:

(1). When foam is the principal agent, carbon dioxide, preferably "low pressure," is employed as a supplementary agent, either initially (before foam is applied) when the fires are in their incipient stages, or, subsequently to control or extinguish fires in concealed or inaccessible locations or to check "running" fires.

(2). As a combined agent with foam, "low pressure" carbon dioxide is applied in large quantities [1,000 lbs. (450 kg) or more] at a minimum discharge rate of 1,000 lbs. (450 kg) per minute. Table 1B indicates that "low pressure" carbon dioxide may be used in lieu of foam-compatible dry chemical to effect the quickest fire control or extinguishment with foam as the principal agent. Quantitatively, two pounds (0.90 kg) of "low pressure" carbon dioxide should be provided for every one pound (0.45 kg) of foam-compatible dry chemical recommended in the Table.

## 215. Dry Chemicals

**a.** There are a number of chemical compounds offered on a proprietary basis which are referred to as "dry chemical" fire extinguishing agents. Historically, sodium bicarbonate based compounds were initially so described, but in recent years a number of other chemicals have been tested and found as, or more effective (e.g., potassium-bicarbonate base, potassium-chloride base, monoammonium-phosphate base, etc.). Such chemicals have proven effective as a means of quickly "knocking-down" flammable liquid fires when applied with the proper technique at an adequate rate and in sufficient quantity. They have good "flooding" characteristics and can penetrate to otherwise inaccessible areas. They have good shielding effects against radiant heat and good range under *normal* outdoor conditions. However, particularly during rescue operations, it is necessary to guard against the reignition of flammable vapors. The permanency of extinguishment with dry chemical may also be affected by atmospheric conditions, particularly where air currents or wind conditions are adverse, but firemen's training has a great influence on this contingency.

**b.** Dry chemicals as currently used in aircraft rescue and fire fighting service may be employed in one of the following ways:

**(1).** When foam is the principal agent utilized, *regular* (meaning not necessarily foam-compatible) dry chemicals are employed as a supplementary medium (usually in relatively small quantities) before the foam is applied and when the fires are in their incipient stages. *Regular* dry chemical may also be used subsequently to control or extinguish fires in concealed or inaccessible locations, or to check "running" fires where foam is *not* being used simultaneously. Care must be taken when using *regular* dry chemical in conjunction with foam to avoid deleterious effects on the foam and somewhat greater quantities of foam may be needed to overcome the tendency of the foam to breakdown due to the admixture. Foam-compatible dry chemicals are now available and have been "listed" by nationally recognized fire testing laboratories. Foam-liquid concentrates "listed" by these same laboratories are tested to assure they will meet these compatibility features. It is thus important that where foam is used and dry chemical is to be employed as a companion agent simultaneously, only "listed" foam-compatible dry chemical be used.

**(2).** Some limited use has been made of large quantities of dry chemicals [quantities of over 1,000 lbs. (450 kg)] discharging the agent through turrets at rates of 1,000 pounds (450 kg) per minute or more, but experience to date has not established this technique or the equipment requirements.

**216. Other Agents:** Several vaporizing liquid extinguishing agents effective on flammable liquid fires under proper conditions have been used and others have been proposed for aircraft rescue and fire fighting but inadequate technical data prevents making any positive recommendations on their use up to this time. Where it is deemed advisable to use vaporizing liquid extinguishing agents care should be taken to assure that any toxic vapors produced will not constitute a hazard during rescue operations.

## 217. Summary on Agents

**a.** The information given in Paragraphs 212–216 indicates that no single agent has all the qualities needed to accomplish speedy and permanent extinguishment of all aircraft fires. Foam, applied as discussed in Paragraph 213.d. is, however, the most effective medium found to date and is therefore the principal extinguishing agent upon which reliance is placed for this service. For further recommendations, see Article 300.

**b.** The type and quantities of extinguishing media recommended in Tables 1B and 2 are based on the conclusions indicated in Par. 217.a., except for airports in Indexes 1 and 2 of Table 1B and Category H-1 of Table 2.

## 220. Magnesium Fire Control

**221.** The presence of magnesium alloys in aircraft structures introduces an additional problem to fire extinguishment in cases where this metal becomes involved in an aircraft fire. None of the agents available for this application (see Paragraphs 212–216) is capable of securing positive extinguishment of burning magnesium under all conditions and experience proves that a definite reignition hazard to flammable liquid vapors exists from burning magnesium following almost complete control over other ignited materials. The only practical methods of overcoming this difficulty are: (1) by the removal of the magnesium from the fire area where accessible and identifiable; (2) by the localized application of special magnesium extinguishing agents or covering with sand or dirt; (3) by cooling with water or foam (this process liable to temporarily intensify flame spread until the application is sufficient to produce the degree of cooling required); or (4) by blanketing the exposed flammable liquids with foam and allowing the magnesium to burn itself out.

**222.** The form and mass of magnesium in normal airframe components of conventional aircraft is such that ignition does not normally occur until it has been subjected to considerable flame exposure (as from a fire involving aviation fuels or ordinary combustibles). This fact indicates that the problems with magnesium fire control on such aircraft normally occur following, rather than preceding, rescue opportunities. Exceptions include thin forms of magnesium frequently employed in rotary aircraft airframes, powerplant magnesium components which may be ignited by powerplant fires, and magnesium wheels or landing gear components which may be ignited following friction heating or brake fires.

**223.** Magnesium fires attacked in their incipient stages may be controlled under some conditions by the application of special magnesium fire extinguishing agents as indicated in Paragraph 221 but generally where a mass of magnesium becomes involved the application of large volumes of coarse water streams provides the best ultimate control method. Attacking magnesium fires this way, however, is undesirable where the primary fire control technique is with foam as the coarse water streams would have the effect of breaking down foam blankets in the area. Thus volume application of foam is indicated during the critical period when flammable liquid spills present the primary hazard with the aim to so cover exposed flammable liquid spills to prevent or eliminate their vapor hazard. Following completion of rescue and all possible salvage, it is, however, frequently advisable to apply coarse water streams to still-burning magnesium components, even if the immediate result might be a localized intensification of flame and considerable sparking. In this connection it is sometimes feasible to segregate burning magnesium components from the main fuel spill area with shovels or cranes to permit separate fire control treatment of this material.

# Article 300. Recommendations for Protection of Aircraft Operations at Airports and Heliports

## 310. Protection for Aircraft Operations

### 311. Basis for Recommendations

**a.** These recommendations are based upon the concept that within a specifically defined area around the fuselage of an aircraft, it is feasible to extinguish or control a fire and thus provide opportunity to effect rescue of any trapped or immobilized occupants within a given period of time by utilizing the extinguishing media and equipment detailed herein.

**b.** The area described in Paragraph 311.a. is that of a rectangle, whose longitudinal dimension is the overall length of the fuselage of a particular aircraft (or the average length for a group of similar aircraft) and whose width is normally a 100-foot (30.5 meters) dimension. Where the overall length of the fuselage (or average length for a group of similar aircraft) is less than 100 feet (30.5 meters), the width dimension may be reduced to the length of the fuselage and the "critical area" then becomes the product of fuselage length times fuselage length (the length "squared"), expressed in square feet or square meters. This area is called the "critical area" in this text.

**c.** Foam, as explained in Paragraph 217.a., is the principal extinguishing agent upon which reliance is placed for this service. The use of dry chemicals (as described in Section 215) or low-pressure carbon dioxide (see Paragraph 214.c.) to effect a "combined-agent" attack is recommended to achieve maximum speed in fire control.

**d.** It takes approximately one gallon (3.8 liters) of water to make one cubic foot (0.028 cubic meters) of foam through conventional foam-producing equipment with an expansion ratio of about 7 to 1. The equivalent of three inches (0.075 meters) of foam, properly applied and distributed, is normally sufficient to extinguish and secure a hydrocarbon spill fire. Thus, one gallon (3.8 meters) of water in the form of expanded foam, properly applied and distributed, should extinguish four square feet (0.37 square meters) of burning fuel.

**e.** The speed with which a fire about an aircraft is brought under control, especially where the fire impedes rescue, is of the utmost importance. The rate of application of available extinguishing agents and the method of distributing these agents bear directly upon the rapidity by which such control can be achieved. Equipment and techniques should be capable of controlling fire in the critical area, as defined in Paragraph 311.b., in not more than two minutes. Foam turret discharge rates, with both straight stream and dispersed patterns, should be of an order sufficient to provide an average foam density of not less than 0.125 gallons-per-minute per square foot (GPM/ft$^2$) (0.47 liters per minute per square meter). The critical area should therefore receive, during a two-minute discharge period, not less than 0.25 gallons of foam per square foot (0.95 liters per square meter) which numerous tests have proven sufficient for extinguishment and effective "blanketing" of fuel spill areas.

**f.** Some present-day transport aircraft can carry 300 or more passengers and may be involved in a fire accident when carrying in excess of 40,000 gallons (152,000 liters) of fuel. The recommendations contained herein recognize that a situation could develop where evacuation and rescue would have to proceed over a prolonged period of time during which the threat of fire could be continuous. To maintain effective fire control within the critical area under these circumstances may require intermittent application of additional foam (normally achieved by the use of hand lines) at reduced discharge rates. This may be particularly necessary where rescue operations may result in disruption of an established foam blanket or where heat and flame attack from perimeter fires or burning combustible metals cause gradual disintegration of the foam blanket. It is thus recommended that a supplementary supply of foam and water be carried which is equal to or exceeds 50 per cent of the quantity required to achieve control of the critical area. This supplementary quantity is included in the quantities recommended in Tables 1B and 2B.

## 312. Extinguishing Agent Recommendations

**a.** Water for foam production predicates use on an equal basis of protein foam, fluoroprotein foam or an aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) through appropriate proportioning equipment (see Section 213). The minimum quantities of foam concentrate recommended should be carried on the fire fighting vehicle(s) and are twice the quantities required for the minimum water gallonage specified so as to permit a water refill operation to be undertaken at least once. The quantities shown in Table 1B are based upon 6 percent concentrates; adjustments must be made where 3 percent concentrates are used. All discharge rates, as specified in Table 1B, are expressed in gallons of water (not expanded foam) and are the total from all available major fire fighting vehicle discharge nozzles combined. Turret application should comprise not less than 75 percent of this total for all discharge devices. Quantities and rates of discharge are based upon agents being carried on properly designed, operated, and maintained fire fighting vehicles stationed on the airport (see Section 410–440). At airports falling into Indexes 4 through 7 (see Table 1B), it is preferable to divide the total recommended quantity of water for foam production into at least two fire fighting vehicles to permit operational flexibility (for instance, to allow attacking the fire from more than one angle), and to provide for greater opportunity for uninterrupted fire control operations (see Paragraph 412). When tank vehicles are employed to carry a portion of the total quantity of water recommended, their response capability should be such as to provide timely transfer to the fire fighting vehicles causing no interruption in the latter's ability to utilize the total quantities if so required. It is further recommended that water hydrants, strategically located on the airport, be provided to refill tank and fire fighting vehicles readily.

**b.** Where dry chemicals are used in conjunction with foam, reasonable chemical compatibility should be assured between the two agents to secure the maximum beneficial use of the combined-agent technique. The rates of discharge recommended in Table 1 for dry chemicals indicate the minimum rates, in pounds (kilograms) per minute, discharged from hand line nozzles [see Paragraph 215.b.(2)]. The amounts and discharge rates of dry chemicals are based upon having these agents immediately available for application from properly designed, equipped, and maintained vehicles of the light rescue type (see Section 420) or the combined-agent type (see Section 440).

**c.** Although Table 1B recommends specific quantities and rates of discharge for dry chemical agents, it is permissible to substitute "low pressure" carbon dioxide at a ratio of two pounds (0.90 kilograms) of carbon dioxide to one pound (0.45 kilograms) of dry chemical for both the amounts of agent available and the minimum designed discharge capability. Whenever used, carbon dioxide should be carried on properly designed, equipped, and maintained fire fighting vehicles of the type specified in Section 410.

**d.** Extinguishing agents (except water for foam production) should be carried in stock to resupply vehicles in sufficient amounts commensurate with resupply times from suppliers. A minimum of one additional charge for all vehicles should be maintained, and where delivery time for suppliers exceeds 24 hours, supplies should be increased accordingly. This condition will vary at different airports, and no definitive quantities can thus be recommended. Care should be exercised in stocking

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## Table 1. Protection of Operations at Conventional Airports

### Table 1A — Airport Indexes by Type of Aircraft

| Aircraft Length (Note 1) | Airport Indexes (See Table 1B) Passenger Seats (Note 2) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Up to 6 | 6–12 | 12–35 | 36–75 | 76–150 | Over 150 |
| Up to 40 ft. (12.2 m.) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| 40 to 65 ft. (12.2 to 19.8 m.) | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | — | — |
| 65 to 90 ft. (19.8 to 27.4 m.) | — | — | 3 | 3 | 4 | — |
| 90 to 126 ft. (27.4 to 38.4 m.) | — | — | — | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| 126 to 160 ft. (38.4 to 48.8 m.) | — | — | — | — | 5 | 5 |
| 160 to 200 ft. (48.8 to 61.0 m.) | — | — | — | — | 6 | 6 |
| 200 to 310 ft. (61.0 to 94.5 m.) | — | — | — | — | — | 7 |

NOTE 1. Aircraft length means total overall fuselage length of the aircraft — see Table C-1 for representative aircraft showing fuselage length.

NOTE 2. Passenger seats mean the number of seats provided in the aircraft to be protected — see Table C-1 for representative aircraft showing passenger capacities.

## Table 1B — Recommended Amounts of Extinguishing Agents by Airport Indexes

| AIRPORT INDEX (See Table 1A) | Water for Foam Production (Fire Fighting — Tank Vehicles) (Note 3) | | | | Foam Concentrate (Note 4) | | Dry Chemical (Light Rescue Vehicle) (Note 2) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Gals. (U.S.) | Liters | Discharge Rates | | Gals. (U.S.) | Liters | Lbs. | Kgs. | Discharge Rates | |
| | | | GPM | Liters/Min | | | | | Lbs/Min | Kgs/Min |
| 1 (Note 1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | 300 | 135 | 300 | 135 |
| 2 | 300 | 1,140 | 150 | 570 | 60 | 225 | 300 | 135 | 300 | 135 |
| 3 | 1,500 | 5,700 | 750 | 2,850 | 180 | 680 | 300 | 135 | 300 | 135 |
| 4 | 3,000 | 11,400 | 1,500 | 5,700 | 360 | 1,360 | 500 | 225 | 500 | 225 |
| 5 | 5,000 | 19,000 | 2,000 | 7,600 | 600 | 2,275 | 500 | 225 | 500 | 225 |
| 6 | 7,500 | 28,500 | 2,500 | 9.500 | 900 | 3,400 | 1,000 | 450 | 500 | 225 |
| 7 | 10,000 | 38,000 | 3,000 | 11,400 | 1,200 | 4,550 | 1,000 | 450 | 500 | 225 |

NOTE 1. Table 1B does not include any amount or rate of discharge for extinguishing agents to be used at private and/or unattended airstrips because of the many variable factors involved.

NOTE 2. Approved foam-compatible types; alternate use is authorized of "low-pressure" carbon dioxide (see Paragraphs 214.c.(2) and 312.c.). The application rates are the design minimum rates of discharge from all available discharge nozzles.

NOTE 3. Water for foam production predicates use of protein foam, fluoroprotein foam, or an aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) on an equal basis through appropriate proportioning equipment. The gallons of water specified should be on at least two fire fighting vehicles (for the reasons indicated in Paragraph 312.a.) for Indexes 4 through 7. The design minimum discharge rates are in gallons (liters) of water (not expanded foam) from all available discharge nozzles.

NOTE 4. When a premix foam-water system is used on a vehicle, recharge quantities shall not be required to be carried on the vehicle, but where a premix is not used, the minimum quantities of foam concentrate carried on each vehicle should be twice the quantities required for the water provided to permit continued operation if the vehicle is refilled with water once.

agents to assure that stocks are rotated on a "first in, first out" basis. Consideration should be given to having on hand quantities of extinguishing agents for the purpose of training in addition to that reserved for fire suppression. Where it is anticipated that runways will be foamed for aircraft emergency landings, additional foam liquid concentrate should be carried in stock to assure that the supplies reserved for fire fighting are not affected. (See also Section 1100 of NFPA No. 402, Standard Operating Procedures, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting.)

## 313. Protection of Operations at Conventional Airports.

**a.** Protection of operations at conventional airports (see definition in Appendix A, A-216) are given in Table 1. This Table indexes airports according to type of aircraft to be protected (using aircraft length and passenger seats as criteria) in Table 1A, and gives the minimum amounts of extinguishing agents to be available at airports for each established airport index in Table 1B. Table C-1 in the Appendix lists representative aircraft lengths and passenger capacities.

**b.** Determination of the largest aircraft to be protected should be made by the authority having jurisdiction. In making this determination, consideration may be given to frequency of operation, to probable future expansion of traffic, and the introduction of larger aircraft.

## 314. Protection at Heliports

**a.** Table 2 indicates the quantities of water (for foam production) and the quantity of dry chemical that are recommended for heliports categorized as follows:

H-1 — This category includes all heliports where the helicopters using the facility carry less than 6 persons, have operational fuel loads of less than 100 gallons (380 liters).

H-2 — This category includes all heliports where the helicopters using the facility normally carry passengers (less than 12), have operational fuel loads of less than 200 gallons (760 liters), and where the number of movements exceeds an average of 4 movements per day over any 3-month period. (Where the frequency of movements is less than that specified, the decision as to whether to apply these suggestions should be based on a judgment of the heliport management and any regulatory agency having jurisdiction.)

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## Table 2 — Heliport Fire Protection Recommendations

| Heliport Category | Water for Foam Production | | | | Foam Compatible Dry Chemical (Rating)* | Additional Water for Foam if Heliport Is Elevated | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Amount of Water | | Total Rate of Discharge | | | | |
| | Gallons | Liters | GPM | Liters | | Gallons | Liters |
| H-1 | None** | None** | None** | None** | 2–80B:C Extinguishers | None** | None** |
| H-2 | 500† | 1,900† | 100 | 380 | 2–80B:C Extinguishers or 1–160B:C Wheeled Extinguisher | 1000† | 3,800† |
| H-3 | 1500† | 5,700† | 200 from two 100 gpm nozzles or from one mobile unit with a turret | 760 | 2–80B:C Extinguishers and 1–160B:C Wheeled Extinguisher | 1500† | 5,700† |

*See Standard on Installation of Portable Fire Extinguishers (NFPA No. 10; ANSI Z112.1).

**Many times a water supply meeting the suggestions for Category H-2 may be readily available. In such cases it should be made available assuming personnel are available to utilize the equipment in event of an emergency.

†This amount of water should be immediately available from a hydrant (standpipe), pressurized tank, reservoir, or mobile vehicle so that it can be dispensed at the rates indicated and at a satisfactory pressure. Additional water should be available to provide a continuing rescue and fire fighting capability wherever feasible.

H-3 — This category includes all heliports where the helicopters using the facility normally carry 12 or more passengers and have operational fuel loads of more than 200 gallons (760 liters), regardless of the frequency of movements.

NOTE: Where an airport is also used as a heliport the fire and rescue protection suggested by Table 1 would apply.

**b.** For effective use of the fire protection recommended for heliports in categories H-2 and H-3, it is important that the extinguishing equipment be capable of discharging the agents at the rates indicated. The foam rates are those which provide the maximum nozzle flow rate capable of being handled by one man. The amount of agents and rates recommended should be sufficient in the hands of trained operators to provide initial fire control thus permitting occupants to evacuate or be rescued assuming that they are not incapacitated or killed on impact. Additional water is recommended to permit complete extinguishment.

NOTE: Where a standpipe or other continuous water supply of sufficient pressure and volume is available it should be used to supply the foam system. If a continuous water supply of adequate volume but insufficient pressure is available, an automatic booster pump should be provided.

**c.** Fire extinguishers, foam nozzles, hose reels, etc., located on heliports should, where necessary, be in weatherproof above-grade cabinets, clearly marked as to their contents. Cabinets shall be located beyond but within 5 feet (1.5 meters) of the boundary line defining the landing and take-off area and shall not protrude into the normal approach-departure paths. These cabinets should be located diametrically opposite each other.

**d.** Foam nozzles shall be light in weight and capable of discharging foam, dispersed pattern foam, or water spray.

**e.** NFPA Standard on Roof-top Heliport Construction and Protection (NFPA No. 418 — 1968) should be followed, including construction, drainage and separators, landing deck egress, and fire protection for the structure.

**f.** Fueling on elevated heliports should be arranged and handled in accordance with the recommendations contained in Part VIII of the Standard for Aircraft Fuel Servicing (NFPA No. 407; ANSI Z119.1).

**g.** An automatic alarm should be provided to indicate foam system operation and to summon aid.

# Article 400. Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles and Personnel for Protection of Aircraft Operations

NOTE: Where climatic or geographic conditions exist that considerably reduce the effectiveness of wheeled vehicles, it is often necessary to carry extinguishing agents in a specialized vehicle such as track, amphibious, air cushion units, etc. At least 75 per cent of the agents required shall be carried on vehicles conforming to the requirements of NFPA No. 414 (ANSI B128.1) unless exceptional circumstances dictate otherwise.

## 410. Major Fire Fighting Vehicle Recommendations

**411.** These vehicles should be constructed to comply with the provisions of Part B of the Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (NFPA No. 414; ANSI B128.1).

**412.** It is desirable to have more than one such vehicle available to facilitate attacking aircraft fires from more than one point or quarter, or as an aid to expedite rescue. This applies particularly to the protection at conventional airports in Indexes 4 through 7 (see Table 1). At airports served by only one vehicle extreme care should be taken to keep the vehicle in top operating condition and available at all times. At airports in Indexes 4 and 5 (see Table 1) consideration should be given to providing the total quantity of water for foam production on two fire fighting vehicles; for Indexes 6 and 7, three fire fighting vehicles are preferred to two such vehicles with supplemental tank vehicles. The latter recommendation provides the advantage of reducing the number of vehicles and the manpower requirements (see also Note 3 to Table 1B).

NOTE: Having at least two fire fighting vehicles available is particularly important when dealing with transport type aircraft because: (1) of the need to cover rapidly any burning fuel spill and thus protect the aircraft and its occupants from radiated heat during the evacuation and rescue period, and (2) the need to make and maintain the "critical area" (see Paragraph 311) to permit the safe evacuation and rescue of the occupants. An analysis should be made to determine procedural policies for rescue, fire control and extinguishment prior to making a decision on the number of vehicles required, being realistic, at the same time, as to how the number of vehicles will influence manpower requirements and vehicle maintenance. (See also Article 700.)

As indicated in Note 3 of Table 1B the fire control efficiency of each fire fighting vehicle is generally proportional to the foam producing capacity of the unit and the rates of foam discharge available. As an example in Index 5, two 2,500-gallon (9,500 liter) capacity fire fighting vehicles would be preferable to two 1,500-gallon (5,700 liter) capacity units supplemented by a 2,000-gallon (7,600 liter) capacity tank vehicle.

**413.** The "payload" capacity (fire fighting and rescue equipment and manpower) of the vehicles used in this service should be compatible with the desired performance characteristics established for vehicles in the various weight classes specified in NFPA No. 414 (ANSI B128.1). It is particularly important that the vehicle not be overloaded to reduce the required acceleration, speed, or vehicle flotation (as measured by weight distribution on the tires) below the acceptable minimums set forth in the referenced document.

**414.** The off-pavement (runway or taxiway) performance of each specialized vehicle should be established by test at each airport during the variable weather and terrain conditions experienced at each airport to establish, prior to an actual emergency, the capabilities and limitations of the vehicle for off-pavement response to accident sites. In addition, periodic tests should be run to determine the maintenance of the other performance requirements of the vehicle as originally designed.

**415.** All essential vehicles (those designed to reach the scene first and the major units) should be provided with two-way radio facilities to assure communication opportunities with Airport Control. (See Section 460.)

**416.** Overall vehicle dimensions should be within practical limits having regard to local standard highway practices, width of gates and height and weight limitations of bridges, and other local considerations.

**417.** Simplicity of vehicle operation (particularly operation of extinguishing agent discharge facilities) is highly important because of the time restrictions imposed upon successful aircraft rescue and fire fighting operations and the need to keep to the minimum the crew required. It must be remembered that fast blanketing of the fire area is essential. Hand hose lines are thus usually not enough for fires involving larger types of aircraft; elevated turrets, remotely controlled extension boom turrets, or similar devices having large discharge capacities are needed to quickly blanket the fire and knock down the bulk of the flames (see Par. 312.a.). Hand lines are used primarily for protecting rescue parties, for controlling the fire in the rescue (critical) area, and for spot cooling of the fuselage.

**418.** Improvements in vehicle and equipment designs over recent years have increased the fire fighting efficiency of such units and have made many older aircraft fire fighting vehicles comparatively less efficient. Before procuring any used vehicle for this service, the possible saving in initial cost should be carefully weighed against the lower maintenance cost, the reduced manpower requirements, and the greater fire fighting efficiency that can be expected from new equipment built in accordance with the Standard on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (No. 414; ANSI B128.1). Foam fire fighting equipment purchased for this service should be tested in accordance with the NFPA Standard for Evaluating Foam Fire Fighting Equipment on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (No. 412).

**419.** See also Section 450.

## 420. Light Rescue Vehicle Recommendations

**421.** The rescue vehicle(s) recommended in Table 1B should comply with Part C of NFPA No. 414 (ANSI B128.1). Operationally, the rescue vehicle should be the first unit to reach an accident site. It is considered extremely important that this vehicle be so designed that it can be operated and handled by one man and that this one man can place in operational readiness the extinguishing equipment while en route so that there will be no delay in placing the vehicle in service upon arrival. Experience has proven that the availability of such a vehicle has been most valuable in attacking fires in their incipient stages; in many cases, extinguishment or control has been achieved by this single unit prior to the arrival of the larger fire fighting vehicles and in other cases, a successful holding action has been accomplished. The amount of agent carried on this light vehicle (normally foam-compatible dry chemical) will depend on its load capacity, but extreme care should be exercised to prevent overloading the vehicle and thus detracting from its acceleration, speed, flotation and traction capabilities. (See Paragraph 415 and Section 460 with regard to communications equipment.)

**422.** Rescue tools (see NFPA No. 414; ANSI B128.1) should be carried by this vehicle. Caution should be exercised in connection with this recommendation, however, that the addition of the rescue tools does not overload the vehicle or interfere with the vehicle's performance. In cases where it is not possible to carry the desired rescue tools on this vehicle without overloading the unit, it is recommended that a separate vehicle having the same performance capability be provided, equipped with the rescue tools and equipment designed to aid in the evacuation of crews and passengers from aircraft in distress.

**423.** See Paragraph 418 and Section 440.

## 430. Water Tank Vehicle Recommendations

**431.** Water tank trucks (sometimes referred to as "Nurse Trucks") are designed to augment the quantity of water available on the fire fighting vehicles. Since the function of water tank vehicles is to replenish the water supplies of the fire fighting vehicles, tank vehicles should be designed in accordance with Part D of the Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (NFPA No. 414; ANSI B128.1). The operational purpose of these vehicles will dictate their performance needs in each instance with the overall concept of their being able to maintain the fire fighting capability of the fire fighting unit(s) without interruption at the discharge rates of the latter equipment as long as the water supply permits.

**432.** Water tank trucks should be equipped with a pump or pumps and hose for relaying water to the fire fighting equipment or for direct application on the fire. It is desirable that pumps have sufficient capacity to replenish the fire fighting vehicle having the largest rate of discharge when that vehicle is operating at maximum capacity. Proper type and sufficient quantity of hose should be provided to transfer the water content of the tank vehicle to the major rescue and fire fighting vehicle.

**433.** Auxiliary supplies of foam compounds, combination straight and dispersed pattern foam nozzles, and water spray nozzles may also be carried on the tank truck.

**434.** See also Section 450 and Paragraph 418.

## 440. Combined Agent Vehicle Recommendations

**441.** This type vehicle should be constructed to comply with the provisions of Part E of the Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (No. 414; ANSI B128.1). It is primarily designed to serve as the prime fire fighting vehicle for Index 2 airports (see Table 1B) but may be suitable as an alternate for a Light Rescue Vehicle (see Section 420) for airports in higher Indexes.

**442.** The fire fighting systems employed on this type vehicle may be of several different types. In most cases, such vehicles are designed to carry approximately 300 gallons (1,140 liters) of water for foam production and 300 pounds (135 kilograms) of foam-compatible dry chemical. When used as the sole rescue and fire fighting unit on an airport, the provision of a foam or twinned-agent turret is recommended; when used as a Light Rescue Vehicle, such a turret is not required.

## 450. Recommendations for Fire Fighting Equipment on Vehicles

**451.** No attempt is made here to detail water pump capacities, pump inlet and outlet plumbing, foam proportioners and controls, the location of elevated nozzles and their operation, hose reel locations, or other design details of foam or supplementary agent equipment mounted on the equipment provided. It is recognized that all these items require careful engineering and that the details of the fire control equipment must be compatible with the discharge rates recommended in the Tables, the manpower available in each instance, and the objective of providing maximum capability for the vehicles in their primary function of rescue. [See Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (NFPA No. 414; ANSI B128.1) for fire fighting equipment recommendations.]

**452.** Vehicles provided for this service should be designed to permit uninterrupted pump discharge even when maneuvering the vehicle during the rescue operation. This may be accomplished by providing an independent pumping engine(s), or, if the vehicle engine(s) is (are) also used for pumping, by providing a specially designed transmission or engine-powered take-off. Use of such a transmission or power take-off should not result in more than a slight decrease in pump pressure, as well as not interrupting extinguishing agent discharge while vehicle movement is being accomplished. (See Section 31 of Part B of NFPA No. 414; ANSI B128.1.)

**453.** Optimum benefits are normally achieved with mobile equipment by approaching aircraft fires from the windward position but this is not always possible. This dictates that turrets and hand lines should be so located and operable over such a range as to be of maximum utility and not conflict with each other. (See Sections 335 and 336 of NFPA No. 414; ANSI B128.1 for details.)

**454.** At airports adjacent to water or swampy areas or where snow, ice or unusual terrain may affect fire and rescue activities, special consideration should be given to these factors (see Article 600 — Water Rescue Facilities).

## 460. Communications and Alarms Recommended

**461.** The provision of two-way radio communication, special telephone and general alarm systems is recommended between Airport Control and the Airport Fire Station. Dependable transmission of essential emergency signals is a vital necessity. Mobile vehicles considered essential for the effective rescue and fire fighting service should be provided with two-way radio equipment (see Paragraph 415). Consistent with the individual situations at each airport, communication and alarm equipment should serve the following purposes:

**a.** Provide for direct communication between Airport Control and the Airport Fire Station to ensure the prompt alerting and despatch of rescue and fire fighting vehicles and personnel in event of an alert or incident.

**b.** Provide for emergency signals to ensure the immediate summoning of auxiliary personnel not on stand-by duty at the Airport Fire Station (see Paragraph 154 and NFPA No. 402).

**c.** As necessary, provide for the summoning of cooperating public protective agencies (public fire departments, ambulance and medical services, police or security personnel) and others located on or off the airport. (See NFPA No. 402.)

**d.** Provide for communication by means of two-way radio on all aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicles.

## 470. Related Airport Features

**471.** The installation of underground water service mains with either conventional or flush type hydrants along aprons and adjacent to administration and service areas is recommended. Underground water service mains for the movement area are also desirable.

**472.** Consideration should be given at all airports, depending on local conditions, to provide for ready access to such natural water supplies (lakes, ponds, streams, etc.) as may be available in the immediate vicinity. Provision should be made for drafting and pumping from such water supplies to augment the capabilities of the aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicles. The construction of ramps, cisterns, docks, or settling basins to permit utilization and access to natural water sources available should not be overlooked. Wherever feasible, provision for drafting and pumping should be incorporated on a structural fire fighting unit which is either based at or located in the vicinity of the airport.

NOTE: For further guidance on Airport Water Supplies, see NFPA Recommended Practice for Master Planning Airport Water Supply Systems for Fire Protection (No. 419 — 1969).

**473.** Depending on the location of the airport and local topography, consideration should be given to the provision of suitable quick exits around the perimeter of the airport for aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicles and to provide good approaches to access roads beyond the airport boundary for as far a distance as is necessary or practical. Particular attention should be given to the provision of ready access to the undershoot and overrun areas.

**474.** Aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicles normally should be garaged at a central station. (See also Article 100 of NFPA No. 402.) The station apparatus section should be heated (where necessary) to assure immediate starting of garaged vehicles and should be located so:

**a.** That access to the movement area is unobstructed.

**b.** That vehicle running distance to active runways is the shortest possible consistent with regulations regarding clearances of structures from landing areas.

**c.** That visibility of flight activity is normally obtainable.

**d.** That auxiliary personnel, trained for aircraft rescue and fire fighting, will be able to reach their stations without unnecessary delay.

**e.** That direct communication with Airport Control be available.

## 480. Personnel Recommendations

**481.** All personnel provided for aircraft rescue and fire fighting duties should be fully schooled in the performance of their duties under the direction of a designated Chief of Emergency Crew.

**482. Personnel:** Men recruited for aircraft rescue and fire fighting services should be of a high physical and mental standard, resolute, possess initiative, competent to form an intelligent assessment of a fire situation and, above all, must be well trained and fully qualified. Ideally, every man should be capable of sizing up changing circumstances at an aircraft accident and to take the necessary action without detailed supervision. Where, of necessity, the available manpower displays limited capacity to use initiative, the deficiency must be made good by the provision of additional supervisory staff of a superior grade who will be responsible for exercising control of their crews. The officer responsible for the organization and training of the fire service should be an experienced, qualified and competent leader.

**483.** In the interest of providing immediate response capabilities of all vehicles recommended in Table 1B, the following *minimum* manpower shall be provided during flight operations:

**a.** A fully trained driver-operator for the light rescue vehicle or the combined agent vehicle.

NOTE: It is anticipated that this vehicle will be the first unit to arrive. It is recommended that the officer in charge respond with this vehicle. This will allow an early appraisal of conditions in order that he can better direct fire fighting operations.

**b.** A fully qualified driver-operator for each of the other vehicles provided to meet the recommendations in Table 1B for airports in Indexes 2 through 7.

**c.** A fully trained turret operator for each major fire fighting vehicle recommended in Table 1B for airports in Indexes 2 through 7.

NOTE: Where all the water requirements recommended in Table 1B are carried on fire fighting vehicles, it is not considered necessary to furnish a separate turret operator for each such vehicle beyond those scheduled for immediate response requirements.

Other fully trained fire fighting personnel should be readily available* to provide handline operation capabilities of the major fire fighting vehicles. At airports falling into Indexes 5 through 7 of Table 1B, serious consideration should be given to providing this additional personnel on an immediate response basis.

**d.** In order to determine training and qualifications of the fire fighting personnel, refer to Training Procedures outlined in Article 800.

**484.** Movement and utilization of aircraft rescue and fire fighting equipment and of other emergency equipment at the time of emergency should be governed by the principles set forth in "Standard Operating Procedures, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting" (NFPA No. 402).

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*"Readily available fire fighting personnel" are personnel trained in and assigned to fire fighting duties but who may have other duties on the airport and respond to an emergency upon call.

**485.** It is recommended that equipment be manned and placed at predetermined emergency stations on the movement area prior to any landing or take-off attempted under any abnormal flight or weather conditions which might increase the accident potential during such operations.

**486.** All authorized personnel should be given suitable identifying insignia to prevent any misunderstanding as to their right to be in the fire area or on the movement area of an airport during an emergency.

**487.** The following fire fighters' personal equipment is recommended:

**a.** Bunker suit with heat insulative interliners for coat and trousers to afford full arm, body and leg protection, outer garment to be water repellent and flame resistant.

**b.** Protective gloves of chrome leather with heat insulative interliner and gauntlet wrist protection.

**c.** Standard fireman boots with wool lining.

**d.** Fireman helmet with plastic full vision face shield and front and neck protective aprons.

NOTE: For further information, see NFPA Nos. 402 and 406M.

**488.** Full-time aircraft rescue and fire fighting personnel, where available, may profitably be assigned airport fire prevention duties (inspections and fire-guard functions) and be responsible for the routine maintenance of all airport fire equipment if suitable arrangements are provided to alert them for instant duties when away from the central fire station and if suitable transportation is available, when needed, to assure timely response to alarms.

## Article 500. Ambulance and Medical Facilities

### 510. Provision for Ambulances

**511.** The availability of ambulance and medical facilities for the removal and after-care of casualties arising from an aircraft accident should receive the careful consideration of airport managements and should form part of the overall emergency plan established to deal with such emergencies.

**512.** The extent of the facilities to be provided should be determined by the type of traffic and the maximum number of passengers likely to be involved in the largest aircraft normally using the airport.

**513.** Any decision regarding the provision of ambulances on the airport proper should consider the ambulance facilities available in the proximity of the airport and the possibility of assembling this equipment to meet within a reasonable period of time a sudden demand for assistance of the scale envisaged. It is also important to consider the suitability of such ambulances for movement on the terrain in the vicinity of the airport. Where it is decided that the provision of an ambulance or ambulances on the airport is necessary, then consideration should be given to the following:

**a.** The vehicle to be provided should be of a type suitable for movement on the terrain over which it may reasonably be expected to operate and should provide adequate protection for the casualties.

**b.** As a measure of economy, the vehicle may be one which is used for other purposes, provided such other uses will not interfere with its availability in the event of an accident. Any dual purpose vehicle should be easily modified to permit the carriage of stretchers and other medical equipment. In a case where auxiliary personnel are relied on for fire fighting and rescue purposes the ambulance vehicle could be used for the transport of such personnel to the scene of the accident and then assume its role as an ambulance.

### 520. Organization of Medical Assistance Program

**521.** The provision of a first aid room on the airport for the reception and treatment of casualties may be desirable. Such a room should be equipped to the standard considered necessary to meet the local requirement which will of course take into account the availability and proximity of hospital services with whom predetermined arrangements should exist for the reception and handling of casualties arising from an aircraft accident.

**522.** The emergency plan should provide for the summoning of doctors in the event of an accident and for the recruitment and training in first aid of as many people as possible from airport staffs who may be prepared to undertake such duties either on a voluntary basis or on such other basis as may be determined locally. It is especially desirable that personnel manning ambulances should be trained in medical first aid (see Paragraph 154).

**523.** The usefulness and efficiency of any ambulance and first aid organization to be provided on an airport may be greatly assisted if it is used to deal with incidents whether of a minor or major character arising during the normal routine working of the airport. By so doing a situation is avoided whereby trained personnel and a useful organization may be left untried and unused over very long periods.

## Article 600 — Water Rescue Facilities

### 610. Provisions for Rescue Service

**611.** Airports adjacent to large bodies of water should assure availability of facilities capable of rescuing occupants of any aircraft that may come down in the water in the proximity of the airport.

**612.** Many aircraft do not carry flotation devices on board, especially those not engaged in extensive overseas operations. Facilities should be provided, in this instance, for the maximum number of passengers in the largest scheduled aircraft serving the airport. Where the largest aircraft is in scheduled overseas operation and all other operations are overseas in character, the airport may reduce the amount of flotation devices by 50 percent.

**613.** Special rescue vehicles are available such as helicopters, boats, air cushion or amphibious vehicles. Consideration of unusual terrain and water conditions, such as tidal flats, swamps and the like, may dictate the choice of the particular type vehicle most suitable to these conditions.

## 620. Rescue Boats

**621.** Rescue boats should be capable of shallow water operations. Boats powered by jet-type propulsion eliminate the dangers of propellers puncturing inflatable equipment or injuring survivors during rescue operations. Boats powered by conventional propellers may diminish the hazards of puncture and injury by being equipped with fan-type guards or cowls.

**622.** Boats and other rescue vehicles should be so located that they can be brought into action in minimum time. Special boathouses or launching facilities should be provided when such will contribute materially to the rapidity of the launching process.

**623.** The boats should be of such size as to efficiently carry the flotation equipment required with adequate space for the crew and sufficient working space to permit rapid dispersal of the flotation devices. Inflatable life rafts should be the prime flotation equipment carried, and there should be an adequate number of life rafts to accommodate the largest aircraft occupancy served by the airport (see Paragraph 612 herein). Once this flotation equipment has been dispensed, the space in the boat used to carry it should be such that it would accommodate a limited number of litter cases brought aboard in the process of rescue.

**624.** In order to permit communications with other rescue units, such as helicopters, air cushion or amphibious equipment and with water-land based units, adequate two-way radio equipment should be provided in all rescue boats.

**625.** A minimum of two floodlights should be provided for night operations.

# Article 700. Reports

## 710. NFPA Reports

**711.** Each operation of aircraft rescue and fire fighting equipment should be carefully reported and analyzed and one copy of each such report should be sent to the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch St., Boston, Mass. 02110. Copies of the NFPA's Aircraft Fire Report form are available from the Association.

# Article 800. Training Procedures
# Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Personnel at Airports

## 810. Introduction

**811.** Instances when personnel whose protection duties consist solely of the rescue and fire fighting services for aircraft movements are actually called upon to face a serious situation involving major rescue and fire fighting operations are relatively infrequent. Normally, they will experience numerous standbys to cover ramp and other aircraft movements and servicing operations (under circumstances where the possibility of a serious accident may reasonably be anticipated) plus a few actual minor incidents. Under such conditions they are seldom called upon to put their full knowledge and experience to a supreme test. It follows, therefore, that only by means of a most carefully planned, and rigorously followed program of training can there be any assurance that both men and equipment will be able to deal with a major aircraft fire should the necessity arise.

**812.** Training of aircraft rescue and fire fighting personnel falls into two broad categories: (1) basic training in the use and maintenance of equipment (see Section 830); and (2) tactical training which covers the deployment of men and equipment to accomplish control of a fire to permit rescue operations to proceed (see Section 840). In addition, training of "mutual aid" support personnel is essential (see Section 850).

## 820. The Training Program

**821.** The officer responsible for the training program must endeavor to maintain the interest and enthusiasm of his crews at all times. In certain respects this will not be too difficult. There are so many factors affecting aircraft rescue and fire fighting procedures which, as far as possible, must be anticipated, staged and practiced, that the officer has an opportunity of sustaining the interest of his students indefinitely. Each new type of aircraft using the airport brings with it new problems which must be assessed and incorporated into the training program. Other more routine aspects of training become less interesting over a long period and here it is essential that the officer should ensure that each man realizes to the full the need of such training. For example, it is a fundamental practice in the rescue and fire fighting service that each man satisfies himself, when on duty, that the equipment he may be called upon to use is serviceable. This particular aspect of a man's duty could deteriorate after a long period of comparative inaction unless the man is really convinced of the importance of this task. The entire training program must be designed to ensure that both men and equipment are at all times fully efficient. This represents a very high standard to achieve but anything less than full efficiency is not only not good enough but may be dangerous both to those in need of aid and those who are seeking to give such aid.

## 830. Basic Training

**831. Fire and Fire Extinguishment:** All rescue and fire fighting personnel should have a general knowledge of the causes of fire, the factors contributing to spread of fire and the principles of fire extinguishment. Only when armed with such simple knowledge can they be expected to take intelligent action when confronted with a serious fire situation. It must be known, for instance, that certain types of fire require a cooling agent while others need blanketing or smothering action, and equally, that certain of the media used extinguish by cooling, while others blanket or smother a fire (see Article 200). The scope of instruction will vary with the intelligence of the trainees. In most cases, the simpler this instruction is kept, the more successful it is likely to be. In no case should enthusiasm, engendered by the interest value of the subject, be allowed to carry the instruction beyond its practical application.

**832. Types of Extinguishing Agent Employed:** It is essential that the agents employed shall be thoroughly understood. In particular, every opportunity should be given to use the agents on actual fires to understand by experience not only the virtues but also the limitations of each agent. Each routine equipment test should be used as a training exercise in the proper handling of the equipment and the correct application of the particular agents involved. [See Standard for Evaluating Foam Fire Fighting Equipment on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (NFPA No. 412).]

**833. Handling of Equipment:** All rescue and fire fighting personnel must be capable of handling their equipment, not only under drill ground condition, but also in rapidly changing circumstances. The aim must always be to ensure that every man is so well versed in the handling of all types of equipment that, under stress conditions, he is able to operate it in an automatic manner. This can be accomplished in the initial state of training by employing the "change-round" technique during standard drills, and later by training involving the use of two or more pieces of equipment simultaneously. Particular attention should be paid to actual operation. This form of training is, of course, a continuing commitment.

**834. Care of Equipment:** A thorough knowledge of all equipment is essential in order to ensure its intelligent handling and to ensure thorough maintenance which is essential to guarantee operational efficiency under all circumstances. It is important that every fire fighter shall satisfy himself that any pieces of equipment which he may be called upon to use will work satisfactorily and, in the case of auxiliary equipment, that it is in its correct storage position. The importance of correct storage of small equipment to ensure that it can be instantly located cannot be overstressed. Officers responsible for training are advised to hold periodic compartment drills when individual crew members are required to produce immediately a particular item. All rescue and fire service equipment must be regularly tested or inspected and careful records must be maintained of the circumstances and results of each test. Some items of equipment can be repaired locally and training in such subjects should be provided.

**835. Local Terrain:** A thorough knowledge of the airport and its immediate vicinity is essential. Training should include instruction in the use of alternative routes where obstacles, natural or artificial, may be encountered. The existence in any part of the area of ground which may from time to time become impassable should be known to all crew members and, where these features are not permanent, arrangements should be made for the current circumstances to be made widely known. Each man must have a complete knowledge of the availability of local water supplies.

**836. Aircraft Familiarization Training:** The importance of this aspect of training cannot be overemphasized. Rescue and fire fighting personnel may be called upon to effect a rescue from an aircraft interior under adverse conditions, working in an atmosphere heavily laden with smoke and fumes. (If self-contained breathing apparatus is supplied careful training in its use is essential.) It is also essential that every man should have an intimate knowledge of all types of aircraft normally using the airport. This knowledge cannot be acquired solely from a study of diagrams which are issued by many operators. There is no substitute for a periodic inspection of the aircraft, paying particular attention to position and locking mechanism of all exits, both normal and emergency, and to the internal layout and seating arrangements. So far as is practicable, fire fighters should be allowed to operate the emergency exits and certainly should be fully conversant with the method of opening all the main doors. An elementary knowledge of aircraft construction is highly desirable since such knowledge is invaluable if, as a last resort, forcible entry is necessary. The cooperation of the engineering staff of the aircraft operators should be sought on this aspect of training.

**837. First Aid:** Every member of the rescue team should be trained and periodically requalified in first aid. The prime reason for this qualification is to insure that casualties are intelligently handled so that injuries are not needlessly aggravated.

### 838. Search and Rescue

**a.** The training program should provide instruction in search procedures, not only in enclosed spaces of an aircraft, but also for procedures for systematic searching of the area in the immediate vicinity of an aircraft accident and also in the path of the aircraft.

**b.** As a broad principle, it should be taught that the persons involved in a fire are most frequently found near an exit, *i.e.*, doors and windows, or in lavatories and compartments, etc.

**c.** Rescue is always best effected by way of a normal channel, if available. For example, it is easier to carry a person through a doorway than to manipulate him through a window. The main cabin door of an aircraft should always be attempted first. Should the door be jammed it will usually be found quicker to force it by applying leverage at the right spot than to achieve entry and rescue through another form of opening. Success in this form of operation requires a full knowledge of the locking mechanism and direction of travel of the door concerned. Forcible entry through other than normal channels should only be attempted when it is obvious that regular means cannot be employed. Pressurized cabins offer tough resistance to penetration by an axe or even power-operated saws. Properly designed axes and power saws are of value in making forcible entry, in some cases, but expert knowledge in handling such tools is a prime requisite to successful use in an actual emergency.

**d.** All fire fighters should be trained in rescue procedures. The working space inside a cabin is necessarily somewhat restricted and it will generally be found advisable to restrict the number of rescuers working inside the aircraft and work on a chain or "buddy" principle.

**e.** Where possible, the airport emergency organization should provide for the availability of personnel other than rescue and fire fighting personnel, for the handling of casualties from the moment they are removed from the aircraft (see Section 154).

**f.** All rescue personnel should be trained in fireman's lift and other forms of rescue.

## 840. Tactical Training

**841.** When personnel are well versed in the handling of fire fighting equipment they should receive training in tactics to be adopted at aircraft fires. Teamwork is a primary essential.

**842.** This training is a continuing commitment and must be absorbed to the point where compliance with the initial action called for is automatic, in the same sense that hose-laying to a well-trained fire fighter is automatic and will, therefore, follow even when working under stress. Only when this is achieved, will the officer-in-charge be in a position to assume complete control of the situation.

**843.** Tactical training is designed to deploy men and equipment to advantage in order to establish conditions in which people may be rescued from an aircraft which is involved in, or liable to become involved in, fire. The object is to isolate the fuselage from the fire, cool the fuselage, establish and maintain an escape route and achieve the degree of fire control necessary to permit rescue operations to proceed. This is fundamental and must be stressed in the training program. The service to be provided is primarily life saving but the personnel must be trained in fire fighting because aircraft involved in a serious accident frequently are involved in fire simultaneously. Until all the occupants of the aircraft are accounted for, fire fighting operations must be directed to those measures which are necessary to permit rescue to be carried out. This includes fire precautionary measures at those incidents where no fire has broken out. When the life saving commitment has been met it is necessary, of course, to utilize all available resources to secure protection of property.

**844.** The main attack on the fire will normally be by means of mass application of foam or, alternately, by the combined use of foam-compatible dry chemical or carbon dioxide and foam. Where foam alone is used as the principal agent a suitable back-up agent must be available to deal with pockets of fire which may be inaccessible to direct foam application. This will generally be provided in the form of dry chemical or carbon dioxide extinguishing agents to be used on running liquid fuel fires or in enclosed spaces, such as wing voids, in an engine nacelle, or wheel well. (See Article 200.)

**845.** The following points should be covered in the tactical training program:

**a. The Approach:** Equipment should approach the incident by way of the fastest route in order to reach the incident in the shortest possible time. This is quite frequently not the shortest route as, speaking generally, it is preferable where possible to travel on a paved surface than to approach over rough ground or grassland. Equipment recommended for this service is basically designed for on- and off-pavement service* but speed is vital and the quickest route, rather than necessarily the most direct route, is the one to be selected. When nearing the scene of the incident a careful watch must be maintained for occupants who may be dashing away from the aircraft or who may have been thrown clear and are lying injured in the vicinity. This applies particularly at night, of course, and calls for intelligent use of spot or floodlights.

**b. Positioning of Equipment:** The positioning of equipment, both airport and assisting equipment, is important in many respects and regard should be had to the following factors: The equipment operator must be in a position to view the fire ground; the equipment must not be placed in a position of hazard due to spillage of fuel or due to slope of ground or wind direction; no one unit should deny approach to the scene for other emergency vehicles, such as ambulances; equipment must be positioned to operate effectively on the fire, particularly as regards rescue operations, but not be so positioned that it might be trapped by fire.

**c. Positioning of Light Rescue Vehicle(s):**

**(1).** Normally, the light rescue vehicle (see Section 420) reaches the accident site first and is used to initiate rescue and fire fighting at the earliest possible moment. Hopefully, the mission of its crew is to prevent fire outbreak and initiate rescue operations, to control or extinguish the fire in its incipient stage to permit rescue, or, alternately, to try to secure a rescue path, to size up the rescue and fire fighting problem and to be in a position to direct the positioning of the major vehicles upon arrival.

**(2).** The light rescue vehicle should be positioned to permit the most rapid access to the principal egress route from the aircraft in distress except when it is obvious that occupants are evacuating safely without assistance and the fire or threat of fire is otherwise located.

**(3).** Since the light rescue vehicle has limited extinguishing capability, caution must be taken to avoid placing the vehicle in untenable locations in event of sudden extension of the flame

*See Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (No. 414; ANSI B128.1).

front or an explosion. After the vehicle's extinguishing capacity has been exhausted and assuming incomplete control, the vehicle should be withdrawn from a position which might be subsequently occupied to advantage by later-arriving fire fighting equipment.

**d. Position of Major Fire Fighting Vehicles:**

(1). Major units equipped with turrets for the mass application of the extinguishing media should be positioned as to make effective use of the turret streams. It is vitally important to avoid wastage of the limited amounts of agent available so that turrets should be used only when they are being effective. Frequently, hand lines control the rescue paths so it is equally important to locate equipment to permit the effective employment of these lines. Proper positioning of apparatus is, in fact, often the key to successful operations.

(2). The main initial object is to safeguard the escape routes. The type and number of nozzles available will vary with the type and the scope of the equipment provided. NFPA Standard Operating Procedures, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (No. 402), Appendix A, illustrates some useful techniques.

(3). The initial discharge of foam should cover and be along the line of the fuselage and then directed to drive the fire outwards. When selecting the best position to accomplish this purpose, always remember that the wind has considerable influence upon the rate of fire and heat travel. The position should be chosen with this in mind, thus utilizing the wind, whenever possible, to assist in the main objective. Except in unusual circumstances hose streams should not be directed towards the fuselage at right angles as this may tend to drive burning fuel toward the occupied areas handicapping survival of trapped occupants. Similarly, care must be exercised to avoid the possibility of disturbing a foam blanket by the careless application of additional foam or any other agent. Foam should always be laid on a liquid fuel fire so that it gently forms a blanket with the least possible turbulence to the fuel surface.

(4). There are two basic methods of applying foam. One involves the use of a straight stream which can be applied directly or indirectly on a surface at some distance. The second is to use a spray or diffused stream at close range. This has the advantage of simultaneously insulating the fuselage by building up a foam cover. Whenever foam equipment is being subjected to a periodic routine check the opportunity should be taken to train crew members in these methods of application.

It is important that such training be carried out on actual fires so that personnel will obtain an assessment of the value, as well as the limitations, of the agent so applied and familiarize himself with the heat conditions he will experience. These drills should be carried out at intervals of not more than one month.

(5). Officers responsible for training should decide on the optimum positioning of equipment best suited to their available resources under each simulated condition and then take steps to train their crews accordingly. At a fire there is little time for individual briefing of crew members and while the initial layout may have to be adjusted to cope with the existing circumstances, it is very important for the crews to know exactly what their first action should be well in advance. It should always be remembered that this layout of equipment should be standard practice at an aircraft incident even when fire has not broken out and under these conditions, at least one nozzle should be manned and in readiness to go into instant action.

## 850. Mutual Aid Training

**851.** Joint planning between the airport emergency crews and the surrounding local fire departments that would normally respond to the airport on mutual aid calls is imperative. Specific assignments should be reviewed and rehearsed frequently. The use of identical maps and radio call signals will insure prompt notification and accurate response. Insofar as possible, standardization of equipment, attachments and extinguishing agents, especially chemical compatibility on apparatus, should be achieved. (For a typical plan, see NFPA No. 402, Part F-3.)

**852.** Airport familiarization is one important aspect of prefire planning. Knowing the location of the runways, taxiways, apron areas, hydrants, and the accessibility of airport areas is essential for mutual aid participants. Local fire departments should be connected to airport emergency communication services, preferably by radio or direct-line telephone. Having been provided with copies of grid maps which are used by the airport fire services, they should be able to respond to the designated accident site in minimum time.

**853.** Local fire departments should be included in aircraft rescue fire fighting training activities conducted at the airport, by participating in drills, tests, and aircraft familiarization programs. Such activities should be specifically oriented toward increasing the effectiveness of local fire department personnel in handling airport accidents. If local fire department crews are the first to arrive at the scene of an aircraft accident, they should be trained to proceed with the rescue and fire suppression work.

## 860. Training of Support Personnel

**861.** Wherever possible, support personnel should be trained as part of crash fire and rescue crews. Before initiating such a program, it is necessary that agreements be concluded concerning insurance, working conditions, liabilities and other labor related factors. (For a typical plan, see NFPA No. 402, Part F-8.)

**862.** Since aircraft fires occur spontaneously and burn rapidly, the time element during which constructive actions can be taken is generally much shorter than in structural fire fighting. Therefore, if available support personnel are to be used, they should be thoroughly trained in their assigned duties and be immediately available. Support personnel can be an effective fire prevention fire fighting force in certain areas of the airport. In large buildings, fuel areas, hangars, and ramp areas, teams of well trained operative personnel have been known to extinguish many incipient fires. These personnel should be especially trained in the fire fighting aspect of their job by the fire service.

**863.** Elements of the airport population should be trained in various aspects of fire prevention, fire protection, and fire fighting. Much of the instruction necessary for the general population can be accomplished by companies while in the performance of fire prevention inspections. Other fire services personnel should be available for presenting fire prevention lectures and demonstrations at assemblies or in operational areas. To insure that the population is fire prevention conscious, all forms of the news media should be used. Frequent fire extinguisher demonstrations and fire protection oriented classes throughout the airport to all employees will serve to acquaint the airport population with evacuation procedures, fire extinguisher use, fire reporting, and other aspects of fire protection.

## 870. Airport Fire Fighter Training

**871.** Training, in services which are organized along normal line-staff patterns, should be a combination of on-the-job training, station schools, and special courses. Special courses may include participation in extension training programs, conferences, short courses, workshops, correspondence courses, or recognized professional schools. On-the-job training includes both the day-to-day attainment of knowledge through supervisor-subordinate contact in the performance of the job, and the accomplishment of training activities directed by departmental policy. In some departments, the immediate supervisor conducts all training. In other departments a training division is established for the purpose of planning, conducting, and recording training for