

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NFPA STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS





Safety Is Everybody's Business

Disasters can occur anywhere, and they often occur when we least expect them. NFPA® codes and standards are there to provide us with ways to prevent their occurrence, manage their impact, and protect us. One of the most notable features about NFPA's Standards Development Process is that it is a full, open, consensus-based process. "Full consensus" means that anybody can participate and expect fair and equal treatment. This is because safety is everybody's business.



NFPA's unique standards development process incorporates a balance of interests, ensuring that all affected parties have a voice.

A Uniquely Open Process

Today's NFPA® codes and standards trace their origins to the nineteenth century development of automatic sprinkler systems. From the beginning, sprinklers performed well as extinguishing devices; however, they originally were installed in so many different ways that their reliability was uncertain.

In 1895, a small group of concerned citizens representing sprinkler and fire insurance interests gathered in Boston, Massachusetts, to discuss the different approaches. They knew that nine radically different standards for pipe sizing and sprinkler spacing could be found within 100 miles of the city. This installation nightmare had to be resolved. The group eventually created a standard for the uniform installation of sprinklers. This standard, which eventually became NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, prompted the creation of NFPA as an organization and was NFPA's first safety document. Today NFPA develops some 300 safety codes and standards that deal with a range of subjects related to fire, electrical, chemical, building, and life safety.

NFPA codes and standards can be found in use throughout the world. Whether it's in a computer room in the Pentagon, a research station in Antarctica, a power plant in the Middle East, the space shuttle, the hometown drycleaner or perhaps a historical library in Scotland, NFPA codes and standards are used to provide safety to life and protection of property.

What the Process can do for you

Who Is NFPA?

Founded in 1896, NFPA grew out of that first meeting on sprinkler standards. The *Bylaws* of the Association that were first established in 1896 embody the spirit of the codes and standards development process. Article 2 of these bylaws states in part:

“The purposes of the Association shall be to promote the science and improve the methods of fire protection and prevention, electrical safety and other related safety goals; to obtain and circulate information and promote education and research on these subjects; and to secure the cooperation of its members and the public in establishing proper safeguards against loss of life and property.”

The NFPA mission today is accomplished by advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education for safety related issues. NFPA’s *National Fire Codes*® are administered by more than 250 Technical Committees comprised of approximately 8,000 volunteers and are adopted and used throughout the world. NFPA is a nonprofit membership organization with more than 70,000 members from over 100 nations, all working together to fulfill the Association’s mission.

What type of people are NFPA members? NFPA membership is comprised of architects and engineers (22%); business and industry (5%); health care facilities (12%); fire service (20%); insurance (3%); federal, state, and local government (9%); safety equipment manufacturers and distributors (12%); trade and professional associations (6%); and other fields and disciplines (11%).

The Making of an NFPA Code or Standard

The NFPA Board of Directors has general charge of all of the activities of the NFPA. The Board of Directors issues all of the rules and regulations that govern the development of NFPA codes and standards. The Board also appoints a 13-person Standards Council to oversee the Association’s standards development activities, administer the rules and regulations, and serve as an appeals body.

Members of the Standards Council are thoroughly familiar with the standards development functions of the Association and are selected from a broad range of interests. Appointed by and reporting to the Standards Council are the more than 250 Technical Committees and Panels that serve as the primary consensus bodies responsible for developing and revising NFPA codes and standards. In addition to acting on their own proposed changes, these Technical Committees and Panels act on proposed changes to NFPA documents that can be submitted by any interested party.

To conduct their work, Committees and Panels are organized into projects with an assigned scope of activities. Depending on the scope, a project may develop one code or standard or a group of related codes and standards, and the project may consist of a single Technical Committee or multiple Committees and Panels coordinated by a Correlating Committee that oversees the project to resolve conflicts and ensure consistency.

Rules and Participants

The primary rules governing the processing of NFPA codes and standards are the *NFPA Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards*.

Other applicable NFPA rules include the *Bylaws*, the *Technical Meeting Convention Rules*, the *Guide for the Conduct of Participants in the NFPA Standards Development Process*, and the *Regulations Governing Petitions to the Board of Directors from Decisions of the Standards Council*. All rules and regulations are available on request from NFPA or can be downloaded from NFPA's website at www.nfpa.org/regs. This pamphlet is intended to give general information on NFPA's standards development process. All participants, however, should refer to the actual rules and regulations for a full understanding of this process and for the rules that govern participation.

Participants in NFPA's standards development process are as follows:

- *Interested parties including the general public*
- *Technical Committees, Panels, Correlating Committees*
- *NFPA Membership*
- *Standards Council*
- *NFPA Board of Directors*

For more than one hundred years, NFPA has kept in step with the needs of the safety community, serving as an authoritative source for information, education, and timely research worldwide.

Starting a New Project

Anyone can submit a request for a project to develop a new code or standard in accordance with NFPA Regulations, provided the necessary information is submitted on the New Project Initiation Form (www.nfpa.org/newprojectidea). The Standards Council reviews all requests and, if appropriate, directs that a notice be published in *NFPA News*, and on the NFPA website (www.nfpa.org). This notice asks for:

- *input or need on the proposed project;*
- *information on organizations that may be involved in the subject matter;*
- *a listing of available resource material; and*
- *an indication of who is willing to participate in the project if it is approved.*

The Standards Council reviews all input and information it receives about the proposed new project and, if the Standards Council determines the proposed project should proceed, it either assigns the project to an existing Technical Committee or Panel, or establishes a new one.

The mission of the nonprofit NFPA is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training and education.



Establishing a Consensus Body

In the NFPA standards development process, NFPA Technical Committees and Panels serve as the principal consensus bodies responsible for developing and updating all NFPA codes and standards. Committees and Panels are appointed by the Standards Council and typically consist of no more than thirty voting members representing a balance of interests. NFPA membership is not required in order to participate on an NFPA Technical Committee, and appointment is based on such factors as technical expertise, professional standing, commitment to public safety, and the ability to bring to the table the point of view of a category of interested people or groups. Each Technical Committee is constituted so as to contain a balance of affected interests, with no more than one-third of the Committee from the same interest category. The categories generally used by the Standards Council to classify Committee members are summarized below. The Committee must reach a consensus in order to take action on an item.

Classification of Committee Members



Insurance



Consumer



Enforcing
Authority



Labor



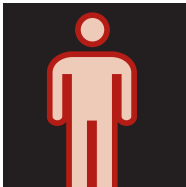
Installer/
Maintainer



Manufacturer



Applied Research/
Testing Laboratory



User



Special
Expert

The Standards Development Process

The NFPA process encourages public participation in the development of its codes and standards. All NFPA codes and standards (also referred to here as NFPA “Standards”) are revised and updated every three to five years in revision cycles that begin twice each year and that normally take approximately two years to complete. Each revision cycle proceeds according to a published schedule that includes final dates for all major events in the process. The process contains four basic steps as follows:

1. Input Stage;
2. Comment Stage;
3. Association Technical Meeting;
4. Council Appeals and Issuance of Standard.

Standards Development Process Facts:

- *Standards are updated every three to five years.*
- *Approximately 8,000 volunteers serve on NFPA Technical Committees.*
- *Technical Committees and Panels represent a variety of balanced interests.*
- *Approximately 250 different Technical Committees and Panels are responsible for document development.*



STEP 1 - Input Stage

Public Input. As soon as the current edition is published, the development of the revised edition begins. A new or revised NFPA Standard enters one of two revision cycles available each year (annual or fall cycle). The revision cycle begins with the acceptance of Public Input, the public notice asking for any interested party to submit input on an existing Standard or a committee-approved new draft Standard. The Call for Public Input is published in *NFPA News*, the *U.S. Federal Register*, the American National Standards Institute's *Standards Action*, on NFPA's website, and other publications. The electronic submission system is available on NFPA's website on the document's information page at www.nfpa.org/document# (example: www.nfpa.org/101). After the Public Input closing date, the Committee or Panel has a period after the closing date to hold their First Draft Meeting.

First Draft Meeting. After the Public Input closing date, the Technical Committee or Panel holds their First Draft Meeting where the Committee revises the Standard. The Committee considers and provides a response to all Public Input. The Committee will use the input in order to help develop First Revisions to the Standard which results in a complete and fully integrated draft known as the First Draft. The First Draft has initial agreement by the Committee based on a simple majority vote during the Meeting to establish a consensus. The final position of the Committee is established by a ballot.

Committee Ballot on First Draft. The First Revisions developed at the First Draft Meeting are balloted; this means that the text the Committee wants revised in the Standard is on the ballot for approval by the Committee. Committee-approved revisions are called First Revisions, and each must be approved by two-thirds of the Committee to appear in the First Draft. Any First Revisions that do not pass the ballot appear in the First Draft Report as Committee Inputs.

First Draft Report Posted. The First Draft Report is posted on the NFPA website. The First Draft Report serves as documentation of the Input Stage and is published for public review and comment. The First Draft Report consists of the First Draft, Public Input, Committee Input, Committee and Correlating Committee Statements, Correlating Input, Correlating Notes, and Ballot Statements. The Report also contains a list of Technical Committee and Correlating Committee Members. The public reviews the First Draft Report in order to submit Public Comments on the First Draft, leading to the next stage of the process.

STEP 2 - Comment Stage

Public Comment. Once the First Draft Report becomes available, there is a public comment period during which anyone may submit a Public Comment on the First Draft. Any objections or further related changes to the content of the First Draft must be submitted at the Comment stage. After the Public Comment closing date, the Committee has a period of time to hold their Second Draft Meeting.

No Public Comments Received-Consent Document. Where no Public Comments are received and the Committee agrees that no Second Revisions are needed, the document does not continue through the Comment Stage and is sent directly to the Standards Council for issuance. Such documents are referred to as Consent Standards. When Public Comments are received and/or the Committee has additional revisions, a Second Draft Meeting is held and the Comment Stage continues.

Second Draft Meeting. After the Public Comment closing date, the Technical Committee or Panel holds their Second Draft Meeting. The Committee starts with the First Draft and makes any additional revisions to the draft Standard. All the Public Comments are considered, and the Committee provides an action and response to each Public Comment. The Committee will use the Public Comments in order to help develop Second Revisions to the Standard which results in a complete and fully integrated draft known as the Second Draft. Like the First Draft, the Second Draft has initial agreement by the Committee based on a simple majority vote during the Meeting to establish a consensus. The final position of the Committee is established by a ballot.

Committee Ballot on Second Draft. The Second Revisions developed at the Second Draft Meeting are balloted; this means that the text the Committee wants revised in the Standard is on the ballot for approval by the Committee. Committee-approved revisions are called Second Revisions, and each must be approved by two-thirds of the Committee to appear in the Second Draft. Any Second Revisions that do not pass the ballot appear in the Second Draft Report as Committee Comments.

Second Draft Report Posted. The Second Draft Report is posted on the NFPA website. The Second Draft Report serves as documentation of the Comment Stage and is published for public review. It consists of the Second Draft, Public Comments with corresponding Committee Actions and Committee Statements, Correlating Notes and their respective Committee Statements, Committee Comments, Correlating Revisions, and Ballot Statements. The Report also contains a list of Technical Committee and Correlating Committee Members. The public reviews the Report in order to decide if they want to submit a NITMAM (see Step 3).

STEP 3 - Association Technical Meeting

Following the completion of the Input and Comment stages, there is further opportunity for debate and discussion of issues through the Association Technical Meeting (Technical Meeting) that takes place at the NFPA Conference & Expo® each June.

Notice of Intent to Make a Motion (NITMAM). Where authorized, anyone who is not satisfied with the work of the Committee can submit a NITMAM. A NITMAM is an amending motion that will be heard by the NFPA Membership for consideration and debate at the Association Technical Meeting; these motions are attempts to change the resulting final Standard from what the Committee submitted for consideration as the Second Draft. Those Standards with no NITMAMs move directly to Standards Council for issuance (see Step 4). The Association Technical Meeting provides an opportunity for the NFPA membership to amend the Technical Committee Reports (i.e., the Committee's or Panel's work) on each proposed new or revised Standard.

Before making an authorized motion at an Association Technical Meeting, the intended maker of the motion must file, in advance of the session, and within the published deadline, a NITMAM. A Motions Committee appointed by the Standards Council then reviews all notices and certifies all proper amending motions. The Motions Committee can also, in consultation with the makers of the motions, clarify the intent of the motions and, in certain circumstances, combine motions that are dependent on each other so that they can be made in one single motion. A Motions Committee report is published in advance of the Association Technical Meeting listing all certified motions. Only Certified Amending Motions, together with certain allowable Follow-Up Motions (that is, motions that have become necessary as a result of previous successful amending motions) are permitted at the Association Technical Meeting.

The specific rules for the types of amending motions that can be made and who can make them are set forth in NFPA's rules, which should always be consulted by those wishing to bring an issue before the membership at an Association Technical Meeting.

What Amending Motions are Allowed. The motions allowed by NFPA rules provide the opportunity to propose amendments to the text of a proposed Standard based on published Second Revisions, Public Comments, and Committee Comments. Allowable motions include motions to accept Public and Committee Comments in whole or in part, to reject a Second Revision (change accepted by the Committee) in whole or in part and can include the related portions of First Revisions. In addition, under certain specified instances, motions can be made to return an entire NFPA Standard to the Committee. This means the Standard will not be issued at this time and will be returned to the Committee to continue its work.

Who Can Make Amending Motions. Those authorized to make motions are also regulated by NFPA rules. In the case of a motion to Accept a Public Comment or an Identifiable Part of a Public Comment, the maker of the motion is limited by NFPA rules to the original submitter of the Comment or his or her duly authorized representative. In all other cases, anyone can make these motions. For a complete explanation, NFPA rules should be consulted.

Action on Motions at the Association Technical Meeting. In order to actually make a Certified Amending Motion at the Association Technical Meeting, the maker of the motion or his or her designated representative must sign in at least one hour before the Technical Meeting begins. In this way a final list of motions can be set in advance of the Technical Meeting. The presiding officer in charge of the Technical Meeting opens the floor to motions on the Standard from the final list of Certified Amending Motions as sequenced by the Motions Committee followed by any permissible Follow-Up Motions. Debate and voting on each motion proceeds in accordance with NFPA rules. NFPA membership is not required in order to make or speak to a motion, but voting is limited to NFPA members who have joined at least 180 days prior to the session and have registered for the Technical Meeting. At the close of debate on each motion, voting takes place, and the motion requires a majority vote to carry. In order to amend a Technical Committee Report, successful amending motions must be confirmed by the responsible Technical Committee or Panel, which conducts a written ballot on all successful amending motions following the meeting and prior to the Standard being forwarded to the Standards Council for issuance.

STEP 4 - Council Appeals and Issuance of Standard

One of the primary responsibilities of the NFPA Standards Council, as the overseer of the NFPA standards development process, is to act as the official issuer of all NFPA codes and standards.

Consent Standards. Some Standards receive no controversial proposed changes, and therefore, no NITMAMs are filed. In some cases, NITMAMs are submitted on Standards up for revision, but none of the NITMAMs are certified as proper by the Motions Committee. In both these cases where no NITMAMs are submitted or no NITMAMs are certified as proper for a specific Standard, the Standard is not placed on the agenda for the Association Technical Meeting, but is instead sent directly to the Standards Council for issuance. Such Standards are referred to as Consent Standards.

Issuance of Standards. When the Standards Council convenes to issue an NFPA Standard it also hears any appeals related to the Standard. Appeals are an important part of assuring that all NFPA rules have been followed and that due process and fairness have been upheld throughout the standards development process. The Council considers appeals both in writing and through the conduct of hearings at which all interested parties can participate. It decides appeals based on the entire record of the process as well as all submissions on the appeal. After deciding all appeals related to a Standard before it, the Council, if appropriate, proceeds to issue the Standard as an official NFPA Standard. Subject only to limited review by the NFPA Board of Directors, the decision of the Standards Council is final, and the new NFPA Standard becomes effective twenty days after Standards Council issuance.

Sequence of Events for the Standards Development Process

As soon as the current edition is published, a Standard is open for Public Input.

Step 1 – Input Stage

- Input accepted from the public or other committees for consideration to develop the First Draft
- Committee holds First Draft Meeting to revise Standard (23 weeks)
Committee(s) with Correlating Committee (10 weeks)
- Committee ballots on First Draft (12 weeks)
Committee(s) with Correlating Committee (11 weeks)
- Correlating Committee First Draft Meeting (9 weeks)
- Correlating Committee ballots on First Draft (5 weeks)
- First Draft Report posted

Step 2 – Comment Stage

- Public Comments accepted on First Draft (10 weeks)
- If Standard does not receive Public Comments and the Committee does not wish to further revise the Standard, the Standard becomes a Consent Standard and is sent directly to the Standards Council for issuance (see Step 4)
- Committee holds Second Draft Meeting (21 weeks)
Committee(s) with Correlating Committee (7 weeks)
- Committee ballots on Second Draft (11 weeks)
Committee(s) with Correlating Committee (10 weeks)
- Correlating Committee First Draft Meeting (9 weeks)
- Correlating Committee ballots on First Draft (8 weeks)
- Second Draft Report posted

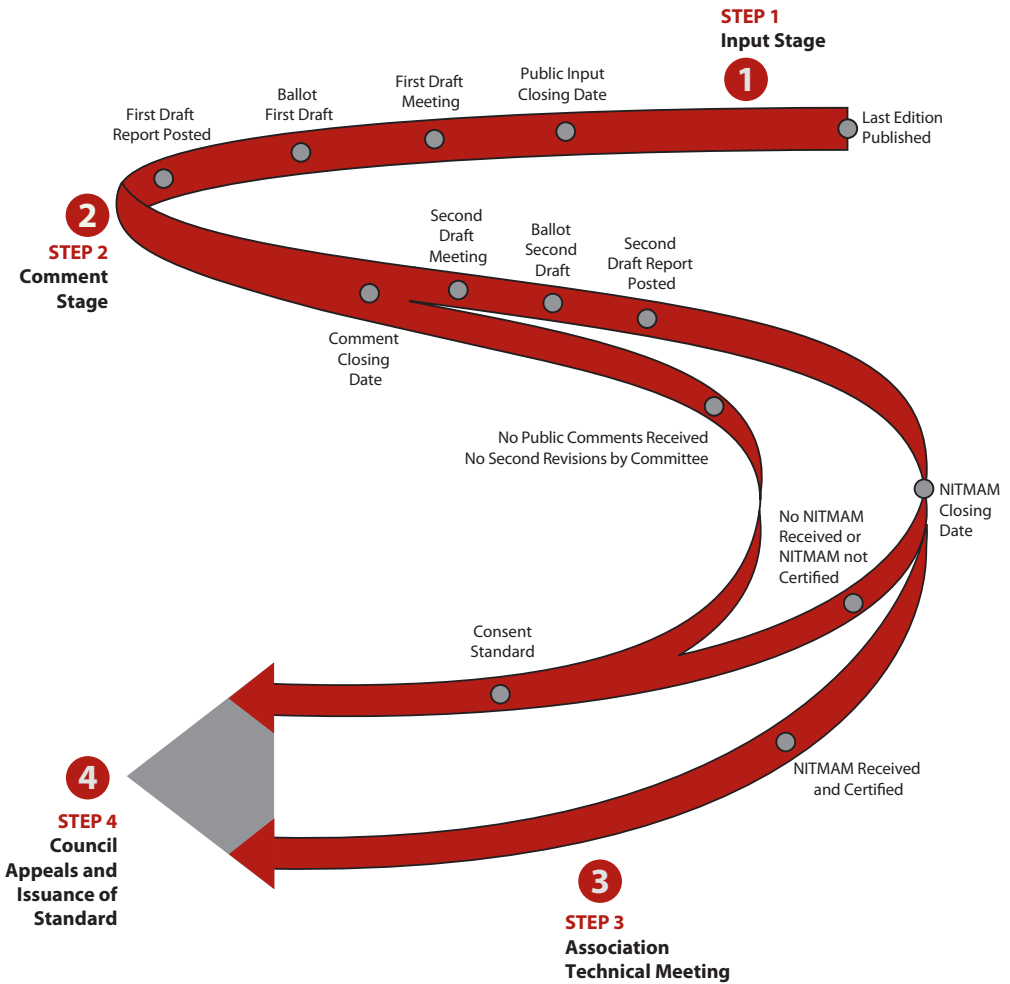
Step 3 – Association Technical Meeting

- Notice of Intent to Make a Motion (NITMAM) accepted (5 weeks)
- NITMAMs are reviewed and valid motions are certified for presentation at the Association Technical Meeting
- Consent Standard bypasses Association Technical Meeting and proceeds directly to the Standards Council for issuance
- NFPA membership meets each June at the Association Technical Meeting and acts on Standards with “Certified Amending Motions” (certified NITMAMs)
- Committee(s) and Panel(s) vote on any successful amendments to the Technical Committee Reports made by the NFPA membership at the Association Technical Meeting

Step 4 – Council Appeals and Issuance of Standard

- Notification of intent to file an appeal to the Standards Council on Association action must be filed within 20 days of the Association Technical Meeting
- Standards Council decides, based on all evidence, whether or not to issue the Standard or to take other action

The Standards Development Process



Notes on Sequence of Events for the Standards Development Process:

- Time periods are approximate; refer to published schedules for actual dates.
- It takes approximately 101 weeks for Annual revision cycle documents receiving certified amending motions.
- It takes approximately 141 weeks for Fall revision cycle documents receiving certified amending motions.

Resources

NFPA Offers Resources to Support its Standards Development Process and Improve Public Safety

NFPA documents are constantly evolving based on extensive public input and the dedicated involvement of highly qualified committee and panel volunteers. NFPA Technical Committees and others work to keep their documents current with the latest knowledge and technologies. In addition to the time and resources contributed by the thousands of dedicated volunteers, the Association helps facilitate the work of the Technical Committees and otherwise promotes NFPA's public safety mission with these important resources:

1. Statistical Data: The Fire Analysis and Research Division's One-Stop-Data-Shop (OSDS) produces a large range of annual reports and special studies on the aspects of the nation's fire problems. The data from the OSDS may be requested by Technical Committee Chairs or Staff Liaisons regarding a specific fire hazard or safety issue. National estimates of specific fire problems are generally compiled from the NFPA survey with details from the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Various other data resources are also used as appropriate.

2. Event Analysis: In order to provide new information and learn lessons that can assist NFPA Technical Committees and others, the NFPA Fire Investigations Department conducts on-site investigations of disasters or near-disasters occurring all around the world. The department's reports analyze significant events (e.g., fires or explosions) focusing on how NFPA codes and standards were utilized and how NFPA codes and standards might have provided additional protection in cases where the documents were not followed.

3. Research: The Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) is an important resource for the NFPA codes and standards making process. The FPRF conducts independent research on specific topics of relevance to NFPA's technical committee and code-making panel projects. Research reports are published and are utilized by Technical Committees as a resource for pertinent up-to-date information. From time to time, Committees will directly seek specific research to be done regarding the subject covered by their document. The FPRF will determine whether or not the specific study has been done before, and if it has not, they can facilitate obtaining the needed information from research, testing, consulting, or other sources. Some of these projects are completed using the FPRF/NFPA Code Fund, which is supported each year by a financial contribution from NFPA. Any representative from the Technical Committees can submit ideas to the Code Fund. The submitted project ideas are reviewed on an annual basis.

4. Empowerment Through Education: The NFPA Public Education Division is the source of fire and other hazard information to reduce residential fire deaths, injury, and property loss. The division focuses on three objectives:

- Position the NFPA Public Education Division as the primary source for fire and life safety information.
- Continuously improve strategies to train the fire service how best to reach high-risk populations.
- Increase awareness of and involvement in Fire Prevention Week.

Activities within the division include reaching out to local fire departments and schools through fire safety campaign kits and an annual Scholastic project, networking with state/provincial fire safety educators, providing fire safety information on nfpa.org and fun activities on sparky.org, advancing various training opportunities at the NFPA Conference & Expo, producing the monthly Safety Source e-newsletter, and maintaining technically correct fire safety messaging through the Educational Messages Advisory Committee. High-risk outreach activities engaging the very old, very young, urban and rural poor, and people with disabilities are an integral part of NFPA's public education efforts. These activities include outreach to urban communities, older adults, people with disabilities and Latino populations. NFPA's public education programs include the Learn Not to Burn® Preschool Program and Remembering When™: A Fire and Falls Prevention Program.

NFPA is the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week each year to increase public awareness of the importance of fire safety education. Fire Prevention week is held throughout the U.S. and Canada during the week of October 9, to commemorate the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. For more than 85 years, NFPA has established the theme and developed the proclamation signed by the President of the United States each year. NFPA also devotes resources to a campaign of theme-related products and materials to help communities promote local programs related to Fire Prevention Week.

5. Literature Archives: The Charles S. Morgan Technical Library is one of the main resources used by Technical Committees to obtain both current and archival information pertinent to NFPA codes or standards. Library staff can assist committee members in tracing changes to codes, providing previous substantiation and supporting documents, and researching the origins of an article or paragraph. The library contains a large fire science collection, with more than 28,000 books, technical reports, videos, journals, and non-NFPA codes. Unique to the collection are Proceedings from NFPA and NBFU annual meetings, papers presented at NFPA annual meetings, original NFPA and NBFU standards going back to 1896, older technical committee reports and comments, and copies of NFPA publications.

6. Annual Conference: NFPA's Conference & Expo takes place each June and is one of the premier events of its kind. The Conference & Expo entails both the NFPA Annual Meeting and the Association Technical Meeting where NFPA proposed codes and standards are brought to the NFPA membership for debate and voting. It also features guest speakers and hundreds of educational programs as well as the country's largest exposition on fire and life safety products and services.

7. Worldwide Communications: NFPA Public Affairs Department oversees the corporate communications activities of the Association and coordinates public awareness and media inquiries, especially following highly publicized fire incidents and other disasters when the news media and others look to NFPA for information.

8. Technology Features: One of today's most important communication tools is the NFPA website, which provides direct support for the standards development process including the electronic submission system of public input and comments. To view document and committee specific information for a relevant NFPA code or standard, go to the document information pages on our website at: www.nfpa.org/document# (example: www.nfpa.org/101).

9. Community Partnerships: To better serve the safety community, other constituents, and its members, NFPA has established Regional Offices throughout North America and an International Operations Division which has offices in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The primary objective of these offices is to assist constituents with the adoption and formal recognition for the use of NFPA codes and standards. NFPA endeavors to reach every audience with necessary safety information and publishes a wide range of handbooks, reference books, textbooks, videos, field guides, and training manuals.

10. Technical Questions: NFPA's 35+ person Technical and Engineering Staff serve as the staff liaisons to the NFPA Technical Committees that develop the codes and standards. These staff members are available to NFPA members and public sector officials to answer questions about the codes and standards. Each year, the staff handles tens of thousands of inquiries. For more information about submitting your questions, go to the "Technical Questions" tab on the document information pages.

11. Higher Learning: The Professional Development Department conducts specialized training seminars and workshops on NFPA codes and standards and other safety-related subjects. These popular sessions are offered to the general public but are often held for a particular audience. Training seminars and workshops occur regularly around the world and provide the latest information on the application of NFPA codes and standards as well as other state-of-the-art safety related technologies.

12. Certification: NFPA's Certification Department presently offers four recognized certification programs designed to document the minimum competency of and professional recognition to those individuals within the specified field of practice. Based on NFPA codes, standards, and technical publications, the programs are: Certified Fire Protection Specialist, Certified Fire Inspector I and II, and Certified Fire Plan Examiner. Information for each of the programs is available at www.nfpa.org/certification.



The Life Safety Code® and National Electrical Code® are in use in all 50 states in the U.S. and in numerous other countries.

How NFPA Codes and Standards are Used

NFPA codes and standards are widely adopted and used as a basis for safety regulation by government agencies as well as for private use and guidance by insurance companies, industry, and professionals and others in the areas of fire, electrical, building, and life safety. For example, NFPA aviation documents are referenced by airports throughout the world. As a further example, in the United States scores of NFPA codes and standards have been referenced by the federal government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Veterans Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, and other federal agencies.

NFPA develops "full consensus" codes and standards — codes and standards built on a foundation of maximum participation and substantial agreement by a broad range of interests. This philosophy has led to the production of reasonable, usable codes and standards that promote public safety, yet do not stifle design or development. NFPA prides itself in supporting a flexible system that depends largely on volunteers and therefore produces timely, high quality, consensus based safety codes and standards at no cost to taxpayers. Safety is everybody's business. Everyone deserves to be heard when it comes to safety. That's why, after more than 100 years, the NFPA codes and standards process has evolved into one of the fairest and most effective technical document development systems the world has ever seen.

Further Information

For further information on the NFPA standards development process, please visit the NFPA homepage at www.nfpa.org or consult the current edition of the *NFPA Standards Directory*. The homepage and the *Standards Directory* contain the *Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards*, updated schedules for processing documents for the Annual and Fall revision cycles, the *Guide for the Conduct of Participants in the NFPA Standards Development Process*, and other important standards development related information.

To obtain general information regarding the standards development process, contact:

NFPA Codes & Standards Administration Department

One Batterymarch Park

Quincy, MA 02169-7471 USA

Phone: 617-770-3000 (until 5:00 PM EST)

Fax: 617-770-3500

email: stds_admin@nfpa.org

Other general information on the NFPA can be obtained by contacting:

NFPA Headquarters:

One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471 USA

Phone: 617-770-3000 (until 5:00 PM EST) Fax: 617-770-0700

<http://www.nfpa.org>

NFPA Customer Contact Center for Service/Sales/Membership/Technical Questions:

custserv@nfpa.org

U.S. & Canada

Phone: 800-344-3555 (8:30-5:00 PM EST)

Fax: 800-593-6372

Outside U.S. & Canada

Phone: 508-895-8300

Fax: 508-895-8301

NFPA International Department Departamento Internacional:

In Spanish / en español

Phone: 617-984-7700 Fax: 617-984-7777

global@nfpa.org

An international nonprofit membership organization established in 1896 and dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

Publishers of the National Fire Codes*, including the National Electrical Code* and the Life Safety Code*.