NFPA Standards & Firefighter Training

Wisconsin Legislative Council Study Committee on Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Shortages

Madison, WI August 30, 2016 | Ed Conlin, Division Manager Public Fire Protection
NFPA Standards Development

• Full consensus
• Maximum participation
• Substantial agreement by a broad variety of interests
• Regularly revised & updated per ANSI
Standards Development
Guiding Principles

- Due process
- Openness
- Lack of dominance
- Balance:
  - Acceptable risk
  - Commitment of resources
NFPA Standards Development

Key benefits

- Consensus-based
- User-accepted
- Flexible
- Adaptive
- Cost-effective
- Self-sustaining and independent
The Participants

1) The Public
2) NFPA Members
3) Board of Directors
4) Standards Council
5) Technical Committees
6) NFPA Staff
Technical Committees

- “Consensus bodies”
- Typical maximum size of 30
- Over 8800 Volunteers
- 279 balanced Technical Committees
- Over 300 Codes & Standards
- Public Fire Protection over 100
Technical Committees

• Membership is continually monitored
  – All members reappointed annually
  – Inactive members removed

• Don’t need to be a member of NFPA to be a Technical Committee member
Individuals Who Write the Standard

Carefully balanced by 9 interest categories

(1) Applied Research/Testing Laboratory;
(2) Consumer
(3) Enforcing Authority
(4) Installer/Maintainer
(5) Insurance
(6) Labor
(7) Manufacturer
(8) Special Expert
(9) User
Technical Committee

Inherent safeguard against dominance

• 1/3 Balance Rule:
  A committee can never have more than 1/3 of its membership from any one interest category*

• Consensus Requirement:
  – Minimum 2/3 on all changes
  – Some situations require ¾ majority
The Four Steps

• Step 1 Input Stage
• Step 2 Comment Stage
• Step 3 Association Technical Meeting
• Step 4 Council Appeals and Issuance
The Standards Development Process

1. Input Stage
   - First Draft Report Posted
   - Ballot First Draft
   - First Draft Meeting
   - Public Input Closing Date
   - Last Edition Published

2. Comment Stage
   - Second Draft Meeting
   - Ballot Second Draft
   - Second Draft Report Posted
   - Comment Closing Date
   - No Public Comments Received
   - No Second Revisions by Committee

3. Association Technical Meeting
   - Consent Standard
   - No NITMAM Received or NITMAM not Certified
   - NITMAM Closing Date
   - NITMAM Received and Certified

4. Council Appeals and Issuance of Standard
   - Revision Cycle
   - 104 weeks or 141 weeks
NITMAM’s & TIA’S

• Notice of Intent to Make a Motion

• Tentative Interim Amendment
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PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
STANDARDS

• Technical Committee
• Correlating Committee
Why Train to NFPA Standards

- Better protect individual fire fighter safety and health
- Better protects community members
- Generally accepted “Minimum Standards”
- Recommended “Best Practices”
- Apply a performance norm to which departments can be held accountable
- Provide a common understanding of operations
- Transferrable certification – region, state, nationally
- Written Job Performance Requirements (JPR’s)
Considered appropriate for training

- Volunteers/career firefighters are trained identically
- Training validated to a recognized standard
- Measurable results –tested & certified by outside agencies
- Customized curriculum developed to the standards
- Reviewed & updated as needed
- Extraordinary amount of public input opportunities
- Nationally & internationally recognized standards
CERTIFYING AGENCIES

Pro Board® Fire Service Professional Qualifications System [www.proboard.org](http://www.proboard.org)
- Wisconsin Regional Emergency All-Climate Center (REACT) [http://react.wi.gov](http://react.wi.gov)
- 1449 certifications to date

International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) [www.ifsac.org](http://www.ifsac.org)
- Wisconsin Technical College System Fire Service Training [http://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/fire-service/fire-certification/certification-levels](http://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/fire-service/fire-certification/certification-levels)
- 19036 Seals issued to date in 7 categories of certification
NFPA 1061: Professional Qualifications for Public Safety Telecommunications Personnel
NFPA 1221: Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems
NFPA 1981: Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services
NFPA 1971: Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting
NFPA 1961: Standard on Fire Hose
NFPA 1962: Standard for the Care, Use, Inspection, Service Testing, and Replacement of Fire Hose, Couplings, Nozzles, and Fire Hose Appliances
NFPA 1931: Standard for Manufacturer’s Design of Fire Department Ground Ladders
NFPA 1932: Standard on Use, Maintenance, and Service Testing of In-Service Fire Department Ground Ladders
NFPA 1901: Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus

NFPA 1911: Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus
NFPA STANDARDS CITED in NIOSH FIREFIGHTER FATALITY REPORTS

• 615 Firefighter Fatality NIOSH Reports since 1985

• 1990 the reports began referencing NFPA standards

• 11 Wisconsin reports between 2000-2012
Why Train to NFPA Standards?

THEY HELP SAVE LIVES!
Questions?

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