

Report of the Committee on**Public Emergency Service Communication****Gary S. Santoro**, *Chair*

Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut, CT [E]

Catherine L. Stashak, *Secretary*

Des Plaines, IL [E]

Rep. Illinois Fire Inspectors Association

Douglas M. Aiken, Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid, NH [U]

Rep. International Municipal Signal Association

William Ambrefe, City of Beverly, MA [E]**Charles M. Berdan**, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, CA [U]**Ken Burdette**, Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue, WA [E]

Rep. International Association of Fire Chiefs

Christopher H. Lombard, Seattle Fire Department, WA [U]**Nathan D. McClure, III**, CTA Communications, VA [SE]**Lawrence M. Nyberg**, Motorola, Incorporated, IL [M]**Evan E. Stauffer, Jr.**, US Department of the Navy, PA [U]**Edward F. Straw**, Insurance Services Office, Incorporated, GA [I]**Stephen Verbil**, Verbil Communications, Incorporated, CT [U]Rep. Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials
International Incorporated**Alternates****Russell L. Shaw**, Poquonnock Bridge Fire District, CT [U]

(Alt. to Douglas M. Aiken)

Staff Liaison: **Laurence J. Stewart****Committee Scope:** This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents relating to the operation, installation, and maintenance of public emergency services communication systems.*This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the front of this book.*This portion of the Technical Committee Report of the Committee on **Public Emergency Service Communication** is presented for adoption.This Report on Comments was prepared by the **Technical Committee on Public Emergency Service Communication**, and documents its action on the comments received on its Report on Proposals on NFPA 1221, **Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems**, 2002 edition, as published in the Report on Proposals for the 2006 June Meeting.This Report on Comments has been submitted to letter ballot of the **Technical Committee on Public Emergency Service Communication**, which consists of 12 voting members. The results of the balloting, after circulation of any negative votes, can be found in the report.

1221-1 Log #2
(Entire Document)

Final Action: Reject

Submitter: Peter W. Szerlag Arlington, MA

Comment on Proposal No: 1221-1

Recommendation: Change title of document to Public Safety (or Emergency Services) Telecommunications Systems

Is it the 2007 version or the 2006 version?

A "index page" listing all the "subject headings" might be very useful.

1.2.2 - 'emerge reporting systems' are not defined.

1.3 Application - This standard shall apply to - add - 'and the people that operate them'.

1.5 Retroactivity - this seems like a huge loop hole that should be closed - should alarm centers be operating in 100 year old buildings?

3.3 General definitions - add "alarm sorting" or "alarm processing" unless it is in the annex already - it might be.

3.3 Genl defs - add - alarm receiving procedure - alarms are received via telephone, radio, telegraph, automatic alarms via phone, verbal alarms by walk-in parties, etc.

3.3.5 Base Station - change this to Base Station RADIO.

add def - "Call taking - see Alarm Receiving" - or some such.

3.3.15 Communications officer - change to "INCIDENT communications officer".

3.2.23 Digital radio System - change to "3.3.23" - and - add 'OR DATA' after 'of audio'.

3.3.29 Emergency - is a kid playing at the side of a road an "emergency"? - answer - not until he steps into the road - then it is a fatality - bottom line - this is a very thin line to try to define.

3.3.30 - Emerg Dispatch Protocol - change this to "post dispatch instructions" - EDP sounds too much like 'Emergency Medical Dispatch' (which should be probably retermed as 'Emergency Medical Advice' or 'Emergency Medical Calltaking/Call receipt'.

Add definition - 'Emerg Medical Dispatch' - a trademark for a program from Salt Lake City - or whatever - some distinction or recognition must be given to the term EMD as frequently commonly used.

Add definition of Emergency Services.

3.3.46 - add definition - OPERATIONAL CONTROL - or OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES - communications between ERUs and Comm Center - including tracking, assigning calls, giving arrival reports, assisting with onscene communications needs, providing additional resources, providing advice to ERUs, etc.

3.3.49 - Portable Radio UNIT - A battery powered transceiver. (smaller than a bread box).

3.3.56 PSAP - a facility in which 9-1-1 or EMERGENCY calls are answered. ??????? not sure about this.

4.1.2 - add - Primary and subsidiary comm centers shall be engineered to a 99.9999% level of reliability.

4.1.4 - comm center shall be capable of continuous operation long enough to enable transfer to the alternate comm center..... - how is this possible if the comm center is bomber or suffers an explosion or a sudden major water pipe break? - shouldn't the alternate comm center have some immediate capabilities (to get help to the distressed comm center if nothing else).

4.1.6 - the AHJ establishes the 'peak workloads'? - this seems to be incorrect - the number of 'calls received' establishes the 'peak workload' - if there are 7 million people in your jurisdiction, then the peak workload would be 7 million phone calls at once - plus 7 million alarm systems that will accidentally activate.

4.1.7 - Each comm center shall be designed to allow the dispatchers to view the external environment (windows or nice full screen video images).

4.1.8 - Same question about peak workloads.

4.1.9 - Add section - All communications centers shall have special procedures for "difficult to find" emergencies. For every emergency dispatch in which no emergency is located, and face to face contact is not made with a caller, a detailed report shall be prepared.

4.1.10 - Add new section - Every ERU shall have wireless voice access to sources of specialty information and advice (such as hazmat, chemical, WMD, bomb, criminal, legal, geographical, socioeconomic, advanced medical, physical rescue, collapse rescue, auto extrication, environmental cleanup, micro weather forecasts.) All ERUs shall have direct voice wireless contact with military, USAR, DMAT, marine, aviation, railroad, and science teams.

4.1.11 - Add new section - All communications centers and ERUs shall be equipped to receive National Weather radio and Emergency Alert System messages.

4.3.8 - Comm centers should have the highest level of seismic protection and hurricane and tornado and bomb resistance - what building should have higher resistance? - NONE

4.6.1 - Add - Facilities shall be protected against EMF pulses that would occur from a nuclear detonation that are located from 5 to 50 miles from the comm center.

7.1.1 - Add - All systems shall operate on a countywide basis (except Los Angeles County) - does not apply outside the USA.

7.2.2 - Add - All telecommunicators shall function to the best of their ability, and without regard to race, religion, disability, kinship, economic status, political affiliation, voting record, union affiliation, marriage status, sexual orientation, weight, height, eye color, hair color, body odor, and intelligence quotient. All telecommunicators shall take a sworn oath to serve and protect the public.

7.2.3 - Add - limited access highways and exits.

7.3.1 - Add - Extra dispatchers shall be on duty during periods of extra activity. - substantiation - when severe tstorms are forecast, any reasonable person would hire extra dispatchers.

7.3.1.2 - Reword - use "prior to" in place of "in preference to".

7.3.2 - Add - Emergency medical advice shall be provided to all parties that require same.

7.3.3 - Are they talking about putting an extra console in operation or are they talking about sending a dispatcher out into the field to an incident scene?

7.4.1 - What about automatic alarms and voice boxes and Lifelines and telegraph fire boxes? - this item needs to be expanded to include these items.

7.4.2 - Add - time span shall run from the first indication of alarm at the comm center till the end of the notification to the ERU - there seems to be wiggle room in the present definition - if it takes 90 seconds to tone out all the companies and repeat the call twice, that puts a lot of wiggle room in this requirement.

7.4.3 - Perhaps this should be reworded - or eliminated - what about hazmat and terrorism incidents? - it is not always reasonable to do speedy dispatches in those cases either.

7.4.7 - Add - The Comm center shall track the status of all ERUs and on duty personnel at all times. "On duty personnel" shall include all public safety staff except personnel without mandated 'recall to duty' job requirements.

7.4.7 (2) - Change last word from "responding" to "assigned".

7.4.8 - Add - If ERUs are responding to an incident without working MCTs, the location of the incident shall be announced twice initially, twice again when the first ERU responds, and twice again as the first ERU arrives at the scene. (This procedure will not apply if the situation warrants).

7.4.10 - See 7.3.3.

7.4.12 - "...restore equip after each alarm" - rewrite - telecommunicators shall do tests of all equipment every half hour.

7.4.14 - Reword - All Comm centers shall have written SOPs/SOGs. Supervisors shall ensure compliance with SOPs/SOGs. Non performing workers shall be disciplined according to SOG/SOPs. (Federal licensed operating goals - FLOG).

7.4.14 - Add section (8) - All Comm Center employees shall belong to APCO. At least one comm center employee shall be a licensed amateur radio operator. All radio operators shall be trained to mitigate the effect of jammers on wireless communications systems.

7.4.15.2 - The plan shall be exercised at least once a year - why not once a month?

7.4.20 - Add new section - An advanced life support unit shall be dispatched to all reported structure fires and to all reports of in progress criminal activity with the potential for gunfire. A response level sufficient to meet the requirements of NFPA 1710 and NFPA 1720 shall be dispatched to fire and EMS incidents. - substantiation - this will boost service to the public and enhance the safety of emergency services personnel.

7.4.21 - Every ERU shall have a two way radio capable of operating on one or more of the following radio channels - 33.70 45.88 45.86 154.28 155.475 155.34 463.075 460.60 453.025 470.0125 866.0125 851.0125.

7.5 Time - ISO has a standard for day month year recording of data.

8.2.1.1 'Telephone directory listings shall indicate that 9-1-1 is the number to call for all emergencies' - recommended change - take out dashes - take out word "call" - use word dial or encode or something equally confusing - are downed power lines emergencies? - are sinking boats? - are sewer backups? - are jetliners passengers with boxcutters?

8.4.2.1 - Equip failure shall not prevent calls from being received - how about cable cuts or sabotage?

Question - Does Chapter 9 apply only to fire alarm systems - or does it also apply to 911 systems and police agencies? If it applies to police - then everyone who uses a TRS is not meeting the draft standard because TRS cannot be used as primary dispatch circuit.

9.3 Radio Dispatching Systems - change this to - 9.3 Wireless Communications Systems.

9.3.1.1 - 'All radios shall comply with rules and regs in the country of operation' - add

- All wireless comm systems shall be engineered by a licensed radio professional

- if there is any such thing - maybe a "Practicing Engineer" designation or license should be required

9.3.1.2 - Add - Digital radio systems shall give indication of doubling to all users.

9.3.1.2 - Add - All dispatchers shall be able to receive and transmit at the same time on all wireless voice channels.

9.3.1.2 - Add - All wireless voice communications systems shall be engineered to prevent feedback.

9.3.1.2 - Add - All communications centers shall provide live audio access to their dispatch channels via the Internet. - substantiation - useful for staff recruiting, budget bolstering / public relations, and disaster ops.

9.3.1.3 - A separate comm radio channel shall be provided for onscene comms -simplex is not required - 'on scene tac comms' are not defined - should the channel be "provided" or "used".

9.3.1.3 - Add - radio systems shall be designed to accommodate surges in messages that occur at major incidents - hello, can you say 9/11?

9.3.1.3 - Add - dedicated comms paths shall be provided for aviation assets (helicopters, planes, drones, kites, etc..)

9.3.1.3 - Add - All field supervisors shall be equipped with a satellite phone, a cellular phone, and a TV set. All ERUs shall be equipped for nationwide communications. All ERUs, ERFs, and Communications Centers shall be equipped to operate on 866.0125 or 851.0125 in a simplex / direct / non repeaterized mode.

9.3.1.4 - 'No RF amplifiers in dispatch area' - change to - Radio systems shall be engineered to provide C3 comm paths to 99% of all areas for a prone user.

9.3.1.4 - Add - All radios shall be compatible with SCBA, have 2 hour battery life, be water, weather, and impact resistant.

9.3.1.5 - 'All radios with scanners shall revert to primary channel' - add - except at fires or large incidents - or any time you go to a "on scene tac channel" (which needs to be defined).

9.3.1.8 - All radio shall be capable of transmitting emergency tone - delete this - unworkable.

9.3.1.9 - All radio shall be designed to prevent doubling. - substantiation - same as it was 7 years ago.

9.3.3.1 - Add - see 9.3.6 - there are more requirements for portable radios in.

9.3.6 - Perhaps I am just losing my place in the document - or maybe there is a better way to organize the document - maybe it would be good to get rid of the numbers at the beginning of every paragraph or sentence - why don't we put numbers in front of every word in this document?

9.3.4.1.4 - Trunked radios shall have at least 5 channels - why?

9.3.4.1.5 - Trunked radios shall scan TGs and conventional channels - comment - I was told that this is not possible for all existing radios and could pose a safety problem

9.3.4.1.8 - Channel access time in single site systems, assuming that a channel is available, shall be less than 1/2 second - lets make that 1/10 second - 1/2 second is an eternity.

9.3.4.1.10.1 - All field units in the system shall be capable of gaining access to the system within 1/2 second of activation of an instantaneous emergency switch. - what if you are out of range of the system - oh oh!!! - BTW, what is an instantaneous emerge switch?

9.3.5.1 All ERUs shall be equipped with a two way mobile radio - I think they use the FCC definition of "mobile radio" here to include mobiles and portables - kinda confusing for us rubes.

9.3.6.1 - All ERUs shall have a portable radio - interesting - they are mandating that all ERUs have a mobile radio and a portable radio - and it has to be capable of communicating with the comm center - a radio system that gives only 1percent portable coverage is OK I guess.

9.3.6.5 - Port radios shall be capable of multi channel operation to enable onscene simplex radio comms that are independent of dispatch channels - this is not under the "Trunked System" heading, so it applies to all 2 way portable radios - "simplex" is defined as "one person can talk at a time" - so either repeaterized or direct comms are covered - ergo - this requirement says that onscene comms can be on a repeater as long as it is independent of dispatch channels.

9.3.6.11 - 1 spare portable per every 10 ports - where shall we keep the spares?

9.4 Radio Alerting Systems - perhaps we can change this to Wireless Notifying Systems - or maybe we can define what Alerting means.

10.5.7.3 - Printers in ERFs shall print out emerge message in less than 30 seconds - change - make it 15 seconds instead of 30 - why not?

10.11.4.1 - An indication shall be provided to indicate that a message has been sent to a MDT - perhaps we can add - The MDC shall provide an audible and/or visual indication that the message was received at a comm center from a MDT.

10.11.4.3 - Add new section - MDTs shall be engineered to eliminate mistakes in MDT usage.

Justification

The NFPA 1221 committee has the opportunity to make profound advances in safety for the public and emerge services staff.

Substantiation: The NFPA 1221 committee has the opportunity to make profound improvements in public safety communications systems.

Committee Meeting Action: Reject

Committee Statement: The submitter did not provide substantiation and much of the comment was new material which would not have the benefit of public review.

Number Eligible to Vote: 12

Ballot Results: Affirmative: 11

Ballot Not Returned: 1 Burdette, K.

1221-2 Log #3

(8.3.1.9 (New))

Final Action: Hold

Submitter: Jon Nisja, Northcentral Regional Fire Code Development Committee

Comment on Proposal No: 1221-54

Recommendation: 1. Take the proposed text in proposal 1221-54 and make it a new chapter.

2. That the technical committee needs to evaluate this problem and develop text for the next edition.

Substantiation: This is a major problem throughout the fire service and needs to be addressed. Section 1.1 and 1.2 and 1.2.2 specifically state that this communication system and issue is part of this standard and within the scope of the committee.

Committee Meeting Action: Hold

Committee Statement: The committee agreed with the submitter that further discussion was needed on the subject of public radio communications using private in-building systems. The work would require more than time allows this far into the cycle.

Number Eligible to Vote: 12

Ballot Results: Affirmative: 11

Ballot Not Returned: 1 Burdette, K.

1221-3 Log #1

(11.3)

Final Action: Reject

Submitter: Neil R. Fulton, Norwich Fire Department

Comment on Proposal No: 1221-2

Recommendation: Add 11.3.4a When Radio Paging Systems and Pagers as provided in Section 9.4.2 are used as a primary means of alerting and dispatching emergency response personnel the Radio Paging System and Pagers shall be subject to a voice and tone test daily.

Substantiation: There are many volunteer and call fire departments that depend on radio pagers as the primary means of dispatch of personnel and apparatus to an emergency incident. Section 11.3.4 provides that "All primary and secondary radio and voice amplification circuits shall be subjected to a voice test twice daily." This would appear to require that the radio circuit be subject to a voice test twice daily but does not require a test of the tone encoding system and paging receivers. In addition Section 11.3.3 which states that "Outside audible alerting devices, radio, telephone, or other means for alerting emergency response personnel shall be tested as required by the AHJ." adds to the confusion by giving the appearance that the testing frequency for paging radios is left to AHJ. For volunteer and call fire departments the radio paging circuits, including tone encoders and receivers, that are used to dispatch emergency personnel are as important as alarm circuits to manned fire stations. The addition of the language suggested would clarify the testing requirements and insure the reliability of radio paging circuits.

Committee Meeting Action: Reject

Committee Statement: The committee believes that the requirements for testing radio paging systems and pagers is already addressed by the document in 11.3.3.

Number Eligible to Vote: 12

Ballot Results: Affirmative: 11

Ballot Not Returned: 1 Burdette, K.

**FORM FOR FILING NOTICE OF INTENT TO MAKE A MOTION (NITMAM)
 AT AN ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL MEETING
 2006 ANNUAL REVISION CYCLE
 FINAL DATE FOR RECEIPT OF NITMAM: 5:00 pm EST, April 7, 2006**

If you have questions about filling out or filing the NITMAM, please contact the
 Codes and Standards Administration at 617-984-7249

For further information on the Codes- and Standards-Making Process, see the NFPA
 website (www.nfpa.org)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Log #: _____

Date Rec'd: _____

Date _____ Name _____ Tel. No. _____

Company or Affiliation _____ Email Address _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

1. (a) NFPA Document (include Number and Title) _____
 (b) Proposal or Comment Number _____
 (c) Section/Paragraph _____

2. Motion to be made. Please check one: (See also 4-6 of the Regulations Governing Committee Projects)

(a) Proposal

_____ (1) Accept. _____ (2) Accept an Identifiable Part.*
 _____ (3) Accept as modified by the TC. _____ (4) Accept an Identifiable Part as modified by TC.*

(b) Comment

_____ (1) Accept. _____ (2) Accept an Identifiable Part.* _____ (3) Accept as modified by the TC.
 _____ (4) Accept an Identifiable Part as modified by TC.* _____ (5) Reject _____ (6) Reject an Identifiable Part.*

(c) Return Technical Committee Report for Further Study

_____ (1) Return entire Report. _____ (2) Return a portion of a Report in the form of a proposal and related comment(s).
 _____ (3) Return a portion of a Report in the form of identifiable part(s) of a proposal and related comments (s). (Identify the specific portion of the proposal and the related comments below)*

* Clearly identify the Identifiable Part(s) indicated above (use separate sheet if required).

3. I am entitled to make this motion in accordance with 4.6.8 of the Regulations Governing Committee Projects, as follows: (check (a), (b), or (c).

(a) _____ This motion may be made by the original submitter or their designated representative, and I am the (if you check (a) indicate one of the following):

- ___ I am the Original submitter, or
- ___ I am the submitter's designated representative (attach written authorization signed by the original submitter), or
- ___ I am an Organizational Member delegate permitted to represent the submitter on behalf of the Organization Member in accordance with 4-6.5 (c).

(b) _____ This motion may be made by a Technical Committee Member and I am a Member of the responsible Technical Committee.

(c) _____ This motion may be made by anyone.

(Form continued on next page)

Sequence of Events Leading to Issuance of an NFPA Committee Document

Step 1 Call for Proposals

▼ Proposed new Document or new edition of an existing Document is entered into one of two yearly revision cycles, and a Call for Proposals is published.

Step 2 Report on Proposals (ROP)

▼ Committee meets to act on Proposals, to develop its own Proposals, and to prepare its Report.

▼ Committee votes by written ballot on Proposals. If two-thirds approve, Report goes forward. Lacking two-thirds approval, Report returns to Committee.

▼ Report on Proposals (ROP) is published for public review and comment.

Step 3 Report on Comments (ROC)

▼ Committee meets to act on Public Comments to develop its own Comments, and to prepare its report.

▼ Committee votes by written ballot on Comments. If two-thirds approve, Reports goes forward. Lacking two-thirds approval, Report returns to Committee.

▼ Report on Comments (ROC) is published for public review.

Step 4 Technical Report Session

▼ “*Notices of intent to make a motion*” are filed, are reviewed, and valid motions are certified for presentation at the Technical Report Session. (“Consent Documents” that have no certified motions bypass the Technical Report Session and proceed to the Standards Council for issuance.)

▼ NFPA membership meets each June at the Annual Meeting Technical Report Session and acts on Technical Committee Reports (ROP and ROC) for Documents with “certified amending motions.”

▼ Committee(s) vote on any amendments to Report approved at NFPA Annual Membership Meeting.

Step 5 Standards Council Issuance

▼ Notification of intent to file an appeal to the Standards Council on Association action must be filed within 20 days of the NFPA Annual Membership Meeting.

▼ Standards Council decides, based on all evidence, whether or not to issue Document or to take other action, including hearing any appeals.

The Technical Report Session of the NFPA Annual Meeting

The process of public input and review does not end with the publication of the ROP and ROC. Following the completion of the Proposal and Comment periods, there is yet a further opportunity for debate and discussion through the Technical Report Sessions that take place at the NFPA Annual Meeting.

The Technical Report Session provides an opportunity for the final Technical Committee Report (i.e., the ROP and ROC) on each proposed new or revised code or standard to be presented to the NFPA membership for the debate and consideration of motions to amend the Report. The specific rules for the types of 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 a Technical Report Session. The following presents some of the main features of how a Report is handled.

What Amending Motions are Allowed. The Technical Committee Reports contain many Proposals and Comments that the Technical Committee has rejected or revised in whole or in part. Actions of the Technical Committee published in the ROP may also eventually be rejected or revised by the Technical Committee during the development of its ROC. The motions allowed by NFPA rules provide the opportunity to propose amendments to the text of a proposed code or standard based on these published Proposals, Comments and Committee actions. Thus, the list of allowable motions include motions to accept Proposals and Comments in whole or in part as submitted or as modified by a Technical Committee action. Motions are also available to reject an accepted Comment in whole or part. In addition, Motions can be made to return an entire Technical Committee Report or a portion of the Report to the Technical Committee for further study.

The NFPA Annual Meeting, also known as the World Safety Conference and Exposition®, takes place in June of each year. A second Fall membership meeting was discontinued in 2004, so the NFPA Technical Report Session now runs once each year at the Annual Meeting in June.

Who Can Make Amending Motions. Those authorized to make these motions is also regulated by NFPA rules. In many cases, the maker of the motion is limited by NFPA rules to the original submitter of the Proposal or Comment or his or her duly authorized representative. In other cases, such as a Motion to Reject an accepted Comment, or to Return a Technical Committee Report or a portion of a Technical Committee Report for Further Study, anyone can make these motions. For a complete explanation, NFPA rules should be consulted.

The filing of a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion. Before making an allowable motion at a Technical Report Session, the intended maker of the motion must file, in advance of the session, and within the published deadline, a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion. A Motions Committee appointed by the Standards Council then reviews all notices and certifies all amending motions that are proper. 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 together so that they can be made in one single motion. A Motions Committee report is then made available in advance of the meeting listing all certified motions. Only these 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) will be allowed at the Technical Report Session.

Consent Documents. Often there are codes and standards up for consideration by the membership that will be non-controversial and no proper Notices of Intent to Make a Motion will be filed. These "Consent Documents" will bypass the Technical Report Session and head straight to the Standards Council for issuance. The remaining Documents are then forwarded to the Technical Report Session for consideration of the NFPA membership.

Important Note: *The filing of a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion is a new requirement that takes effect beginning with those Documents scheduled for the Fall 2005 revision cycle that reports to the June 2006 Annual Meeting Technical Report Session. The filing of a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion will not, therefore, be required in order to make a motion at the June 2005 Annual Meeting Technical Report Session. For updates on the transition to the new Notice requirement and related new rules effective for the Fall 2005 revision cycle and the June 2006 Annual Meeting, check the NFPA website.*

Action on Motions at the Technical Report Session. In order to actually make a Certified Amending Motion at the Technical Report Session, the maker of the motion must sign in at least an hour before the session begins. In this way a final list of motions can be set in advance of the session. At the session, each proposed Document up for consideration is presented by a motion to adopt the Technical Committee Report on the Document. Following each such motion, the presiding officer in charge of the session opens the floor to motions on the Document from the final list of Certified Amending Motions 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 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, which conducts a written ballot on all successful amending motions following the meeting and prior to the Document being forwarded to the Standards Council for issuance.

Standards Council Issuance

One of the primary responsibilities of the NFPA Standards Council, as the overseer of the NFPA codes and standards development process, is to act as the official issuer of all NFPA codes and standards. When it convenes to issue NFPA documents it also hears any appeals related to the Document. 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 codes and 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 Document before it, the Council, if appropriate, proceeds to issue the Document as an official NFPA code or standard. Subject only to limited review by the NFPA Board of Directors, the Decision of the Standards Council is final, and the new NFPA code or standard becomes effective twenty days after Standards Council issuance. The illustration on page 9 provides an overview of the entire process, which takes approximately two full years to complete.