The NFPA® standards development process is an open, consensus-based process for each of the more than 300 codes and standards published by the association. The NFPA process allows for participation by the public at every step in the process. All NFPA standards are revised and updated every three to five years. Normally a standard’s revision cycle takes approximately two years to complete. Each revision cycle proceeds according to a published schedule that includes opportunities for input by interested individuals and members of the public. The fundamental steps in the NFPA standards development process are shown in the diagram below.

Technical committees and panels serve as the principal consensus bodies responsible for developing and updating codes and standards. They typically consist of no more than 30 members representing a balance of interests. Technical committee and panel members are not required to be NFPA members. Appointment is based on factors such 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. Anyone can follow the progress of revising a code or standard online or sign up for email alerts. While this process can be time-consuming, it is thorough and results in high-quality standards that are used throughout the world.

Learn More
NFPA has many resources available on a wide range of topics. Reach out to us to learn more.

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