



# NFPA FIRE & LIFE SAFETY ECOSYSTEM



The NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem™ is a framework that identifies the components that must work together to minimize risk and help prevent loss, injuries, and death from fire, electrical, and other hazards. There are eight key components. As with any ecosystem, the components of the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem are interdependent. When they work together, the system protects everyone. If any component is missing or broken, the system can collapse, often resulting in tragedy. Almost always we can trace the cause of injurious life safety incidents and tragedies back to the breakdown of one or more components.

*“Fire safety exists in an ecosystem of interdependent parts. The safety ecosystem has been constructed successfully over decades, yet we allow individual actions to negatively impact the level of safety we assume and expect.”*

— NFPA President and CEO, Jim Pauley

### Why It's Important to Get Involved

Today, there are many examples that point to gaps, cracks, and weaknesses in the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem that otherwise should protect communities. Often, this is because safety is taken for granted by complacent leaders and a complacent public, or it is watered down by special interests, the use of outdated codes, and inadequate resources and oversight.

Everyone should expect the same level of life safety protections no matter where they live, work, or spend time. No one should be subjected to unsafe housing, offices, work





# NFPA FIRE & LIFE SAFETY ECOSYSTEM *CONTINUED*

## COMPONENTS OF THE ECOSYSTEM



### Government Responsibility:

Maintaining an effective policy and regulatory environment supporting fire, electrical, building, and life safety.



### Development and Use of Current Codes:

Using the latest codes and standards developed by experts from across the world.



### Reference Standards:

Applying all standards referenced within the primary fire, life safety, building, and electrical codes and standards.



### Investment in Safety:

Prioritizing safety across the board.



### Skilled Workforce:

Promoting the development of skilled professionals to apply the codes and standards.



### Code Compliance:

Supporting effective code enforcement.



### Preparedness and Emergency Response:

Providing effective preparedness and response capabilities to deal with fire, electrical, and related hazards.



### Informed Public:

Educating the public about the dangers of fire, electrical, and related hazards.

sites, and other work/home environments, or shop in/visit unsafe buildings because those who are supposed to be responsible for safety are choosing to save money over saving lives. A failing Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem threatens our communities with safety risks big and small.

### Everyone Has a Role

While no single component of this safety system can prevent a fire or disaster from occurring, in order to reduce and prevent loss from fire, electrical, and other hazards, everyone responsible for the safety of the public, and the public itself, has a specific role to fill and must work together to help promote, implement, and enforce the full Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem. NFPA believes that fire, life, and electrical safety are only possible when a safety ecosystem exists to create a culture of best practices and stakeholder accountability.

### Learn More

- ▶ [nfpa.org/ecosystem](https://www.nfpa.org/ecosystem) – Find resources, articles, blogs, videos, and more to view, share, and download for free.
- ▶ [nfpa.org/ecosystemwatch](https://www.nfpa.org/ecosystemwatch) – In each issue of *NFPA Journal*, recent news events, research findings, or other items are chosen by the Journal editorial staff and highlighted as examples of successes or failures in the context of the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem.
- ▶ [nfpa.org/policyinstitute](https://www.nfpa.org/policyinstitute) – A changing infrastructure, new technology, evolving risks and competing priorities will all put pressure on maintaining strong fire and life safety protection measures. The Fire & Life Safety Policy Institute helps policymakers understand and navigate these issues through analysis and recommended policy approaches to protect citizens.

