

NFPA Fire & Life Safety POLICY INSTITUTE



Created by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Fire & Life Safety Policy Institute supports policymakers around the globe in protecting people and property from fire and other hazards with best practice recommendations and approaches to develop and sustain a strong fire prevention and protection system.

► According to analysis by NFPA, from 1977 to 2016, the number of civilian fire deaths in the U.S. has decreased by **54%** from 7,395 in 1977 to 3,390 in 2016.

► In 2016 fire claimed **9 lives per day** and was responsible for **\$11 billion** in direct property damage.

Government plays a significant role in protecting citizens and property from fire and other hazards. Either directly through physical resources and personnel, or indirectly through laws and policies, government action is critical to reducing risk. The NFPA Fire & Life Safety Policy Institute provides policymakers with best practice recommendations and approaches that will strengthen and improve the fire and life safety eco-system.

According to analysis by NFPA, from 1977 to 2016, the number of civilian fire deaths in the U.S. has decreased by 54 percent, from 7,395 in 1977 to 3,390 in 2016. This notable decline can be attributed to better codes and standards, code enforcement, safer products and public education. However, in 2016, U.S. fire departments responded to a fire every 24 seconds; one structure fire was reported every 60 seconds. Fire still claimed nine lives a day that year and was responsible for \$11 billion in direct property damage. Continued loss and recent catastrophes in both the U.S. and abroad highlight the fact that there is still more work to do.

Tragic incidents underscore the need to prioritize fire and life safety in policy-making and invest in a complete fire prevention and protection infrastructure. This eco-system includes using the most up-to-date codes and standards, choosing safety over cost-cutting, applying the referenced standards within codes, supporting effective code enforcement, promoting the development of skilled professionals who can apply the code and working to educate the public and policy-makers about the dangers posed by fire and other hazards.

Public safety is one of government's chief responsibilities. Citizens count on government to protect them. The Policy Institute will study a range of issues to determine the best approaches governments can take to improve safety for the citizens they serve. It will support policymakers around the world in this critical public safety function by providing recommended practices, proposed solutions and other guidance to develop and sustain a strong fire prevention and protection system.

For more information visit nfpa.org/policyinstitute

RECENT INCIDENTS

Ghost Ship Warehouse fire
December 2016
Oakland, California
36 PEOPLE KILLED

The London Grenfell Tower fire
June 2017
80 PEOPLE KILLED

The Ghost Ship Warehouse, used as a living, working, and event space by local artists and others, had major code deficiencies and was not properly permitted for the ongoing activities creating hazardous conditions and trapping people inside. The 24-story Grenfell apartment building had exterior cladding that did not meet fire performance test standards, allowing fire to spread rapidly.

These breakdowns in safety systems had tragic consequences and reveal the need to strengthen policies that guard against fires and other hazards.



**FIRE & LIFE SAFETY
POLICY INSTITUTE**

SAFETY THROUGH BETTER PUBLIC POLICY