



FIRE HAZARDS OF COMBUSTIBLE EXTERIOR WALLS

There has been a series of fires in high-rise buildings worldwide in the past decade. One of the most recent is the fire at London’s Grenfell Tower in June 2017. These fires occurred in buildings with exterior wall coverings or insulation that include combustible components. NFPA has created a web site dedicated to sharing information to increase awareness about these hazards and the codes that address them.

Latest Research and News

The latest research and reports that relate to these topics are posted at www.nfpa.org/exteriorwalls. Some featured items are the Fire Protection Research Foundation’s report, “Fire Hazards of Exterior Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components,” and recent *NFPA Journal*® articles.

Exterior Wall Requirements Interactive Tool

NFPA offers a free, interactive tool to help navigate the code requirements that apply to exterior walls containing combustible components. The tool references NFPA 285, and compliance with NFPA 285 depends on the type and height of a building’s construction and specific properties of wall components. Requirements in the tool refer to *NFPA 5000*®, *Building Construction and Safety Code*®, and the *International Building Code*.

NFPA 285: What You Need to Know

Title	NFPA 285, <i>Standard Fire Test Method for Evaluation of Fire Propagation Characteristics of Exterior Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components</i>
Purpose	Provides a standardized fire test method for determining the flammability characteristics of exterior non-load-bearing wall assemblies or panels
Available Now	2012 Edition
Next Edition	Committee currently developing the 2019 edition of the standard expected to be published in 2018

For More Information

- Access the full text of NFPA 285 online at www.nfpa.org/285
- Use NFPA’s interactive tool at www.nfpa.org/exteriorwalls.
- Visit NFPA’s high-rise building safety site for more information on the unique fire safety challenges of high-rise buildings.
- Learn more from our experts and your peers on NFPA Xchange™.
- Coming Soon: High-Rise Buildings with Combustible Exterior Wall Assemblies: Fire Risk Assessment Tool (expected completion in early 2018)

This material contains some basic information about NFPA 285, *Standard Fire Test Method for Evaluation of Fire Propagation Characteristics of Exterior Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components*. It identifies some of the requirements in NFPA 285 as of the date of publication. This material is not the official position of any NFPA Technical Committee on any referenced topic which is represented solely by the NFPA documents on such topic in their entirety. For free access to the complete and most current version of all NFPA documents, please go to www.nfpa.org/docinfo. References to “Related Regulations” is not intended to be a comprehensive list. The NFPA makes no warranty or guaranty of the completeness of the information in this material and disclaims liability for personal injury, property, and other damages of any nature whatsoever, from the use of or reliance on this information. In using this information, you should rely on your independent judgment and, when appropriate, consult a competent professional.

