FACT SHEET

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 website 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.

NFPA 285: What You Need to Know

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Provides a standardized fire test method for determining the flammability characteristics of exterior non-load-bearing wall assemblies or panels</td>
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<td>Available Now</td>
<td>2012 Edition</td>
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<td>Next Edition</td>
<td>Committee currently developing the 2019 edition of the standard expected to be published in 2018</td>
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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.

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™.