UFF Position Statement:
Smart Cities and ISO 37120

As local municipal budgets continue to be strained, governments at all levels are looking for more efficient and effective ways to deliver essential services. Technology is an important tool that can be used to increase efficiency in service delivery while minimizing expenses. The advent of the Internet of Things (IoT) and the Smart City projects, which capitalize on data and automation, herald the potential for better decision-making in local government and more efficient service provision.

A Smart City employs sensors and other data collection strategies to supply information that enables more efficient management of assets and resources. These strategies include processing and analyzing data from multiple sources and systems. The data contributes to usable applications that can assist with services ranging from energy efficiency and transportation management, to fire protection, law enforcement and waste management.

A key smart city concept is the integration of data from multiple sources. Sources include IoT sensors used to optimize the efficiency of city operations and services and connect to citizens. Smart city technology allows public officials and decision makers to interact directly with both community members and city infrastructure to monitor real-time city activity and assess the jurisdiction's progress.

The safety of the public is one of local government's highest responsibilities. Given the unique capabilities now available for harnessing and analyzing data, it is critical that the Fire Chief be directly and intimately involved in decisions related to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data used for planning, decision-making, operations, and evaluation of the programs for which he or she is responsible.

Codes and standards are an important tool for ensuring the compatibility of data and analytical tools across platforms. With standardized data, it is possible to compare outcomes across programs, locations and time intervals. Better data analysis leads to more informed decision-making. There are standards development activities currently ongoing in a number of forums, like the International Standards Organization (ISO) and NFPA, which relate in some manner to Smart Cities and data collection for Smart City services. ISO 37120 contains the core metrics for performance of various aspects of municipal services. The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs oppose the current fire and emergency response indicators in ISO 37120. The current indicators use per capita metrics that have little or no benefit in portraying the reality of the quality of a fire department's performance. It is the position of the Urban Fire Forum that ISO 37120 should contain the same operational performance objectives contained in the NFPA 1710 Standard.

Realizing this information, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association/Urban Fire Forum will seek representation within these forums to ensure that the needs of the fire service community are addressed in codes and standards for smart cities. A Fire Chief's representative's experience and perspective in these arenas can ensure that municipal data are increasingly integrated, and that public safety receives the full attention of researchers. Additionally, a Fire Chief's representative can contribute information and insight to product developers and city data specialists and ensure that the solutions developed meet the needs of the local communities and enhance the capabilities and safety of the people providing emergency services.

The Metro Chiefs Association and the Urban Fire Forum strongly encourages every Metro Chief to follow proceedings and participate in the discussion at https://www.iso.org/committee/656906/x/catalogue/ .

As part of the overall mission of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association/Urban Fire Forum, Chief Officers will share this position and related information with other officers and firefighters in their respective department to educate and assist in implementing active participation in the Smart Cites efforts in their jurisdictions.

Definitions

Smart City- A municipality that uses information and communication technologies to increase operational efficiency, share information with the public and improve both the quality of government services and citizen welfare.

Internet of Things (IoT) - The network of physical devices, vehicles, home appliances and other items embedded with electronics, software, sensors, actuators, and connectivity which enables these objects to connect and exchange data. IoT is a concept that has the potential to impact how we live and work.

Related Resources

ISO 37120 Briefing Note: The First ISO International Standard on City Indicators. ISO https://www.iso.org/files/live/sites/isoorg/files/archive/pdf/en/37120_briefing_note.pdf

Karayannis, G., Dissecting ISO 37120: Fire and emergency response indicators -- how safe is your city? Smart Cities Council, April 2014. https://smartcitiescouncil.com/article/dissecting-iso-37120-fire-and-emergency-response-indicators-how-safe-your-city

World Council on City Data: ISO 37120 Indicators
https://cities.dataforcities.org/resources/ISO%2037120%20Indicators.pdf?v=1510957203519

Tech Target: IoT Agenda Smart Cities
https://internetofthingsagenda.techtarget.com/definition/smart-city