

# NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem Assessment Tool

Urban Fire Forum • Meghan Housewright, Director NFPA Fire & Life Safety Policy Institute



IT'S A BIG WORLD. LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.®





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



Using the latest codes and standards developed by experts and based on fire safety principles

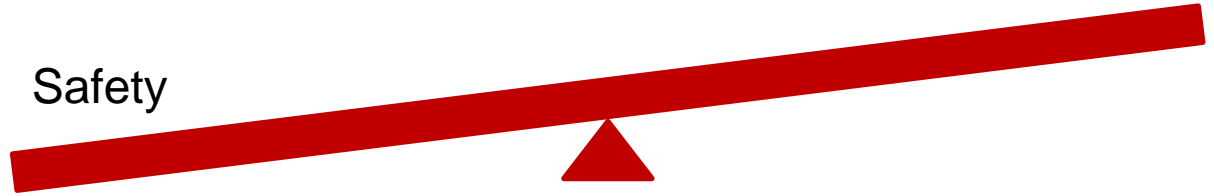


Applying all standards or other documents referenced within the primary Codes & Standards



Safety

\$\$\$



Promoting the development of skilled professionals to apply the Codes & Standards



Supporting effective Code Enforcement





Providing effective preparedness and response capabilities



Educating the Public about the dangers posed by fire, electrical and related hazards



# Ecosystem Gaps

- **Poor Zoning: Schools, Housing, and Nursing Home too Close to Facility**
- **Inadequate Emergency Planning/Low Hazard Awareness**
- **Inadequate Regulatory Oversight**



Photo by Shane Torgerson, 2013  
Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution - Share  
Alike 3.0

# Ecosystem Gaps

- **Product Used without Proper Testing**
- **Workforce Training Inconsistent for the Design, Construct, and Maintain High Rise Residential Buildings**
- **Weak Enforcement of Rules & Requirements**
- **Residents had Difficulty Raising Safety Concerns**



Licensed Under CC 4.0. By Natalie Oxford on Twitter  
[https://twitter.com/Natalie\\_Oxford/status/674355838614820865/photo/1](https://twitter.com/Natalie_Oxford/status/674355838614820865/photo/1), CC BY 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=59913170>



# Ecosystem Gaps

- **Fire started by AC unit; Fast spread due to lack of protection systems**
- **Fast fire spread due to lack of protection systems – active and passive**
- **Lack of funding at issue**





# Low Functioning Ecosystem

- **Chemical storage in Mixed Use property**
- **Similar incident in 2010**
- **Zoning and lack of Compliance at issue**



# Ecosystem Assessment Tool

- Developed through:
  - researching maturity models, scoring systems, and related capacity assessment tools; and
  - breaking down each Ecosystem Cog into the laws, policies, and activities that enable it
- Ultimate Goal:
  - Generic enough to reflect governing structures and safety practices in communities across the world (i.e. thinking more about what gets down than how);
  - User friendly and engaging enough to be easily completed by community leaders; and
  - Meaningfully reflect the safety situation in the community and provide direction on how to prioritize actions to address safety gaps.



- Laws & Regulations
- Enforcement of Safety Laws
- Funding Safety
- Educating the Public
- Commitment & Accountability

# Laws & Regulations

Please choose the color category that best describes your community.

Our community has . . .



of the following laws or rules that require:

- Buildings to be constructed to specified safety standards;
- Electrical installations and maintenance to meet specified safety standards;
- Property owners and managers to follow specified fire and life safety standards;
- Employers to meet specified labor safer standards for their employees;
- Architects, engineers, and other design professionals, including those who design fire, life safety, and electrical systems, to be licensed or otherwise certified;
- Installation and service personnel for electrical and fire protection systems (i.e., fire alarm systems, fire sprinkler systems) must be licensed or otherwise certified;
- Land use planning and approval processes to avoid development in areas at risk from natural or manmade hazards; and
- Electrical and construction products on the market to meet safety standards.



# Ecosystem Assessment Tool: Next Steps

- Goal:
  - Create a web-based version of the tool to be available early next year.





IT'S A BIG WORLD.  
LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.®