

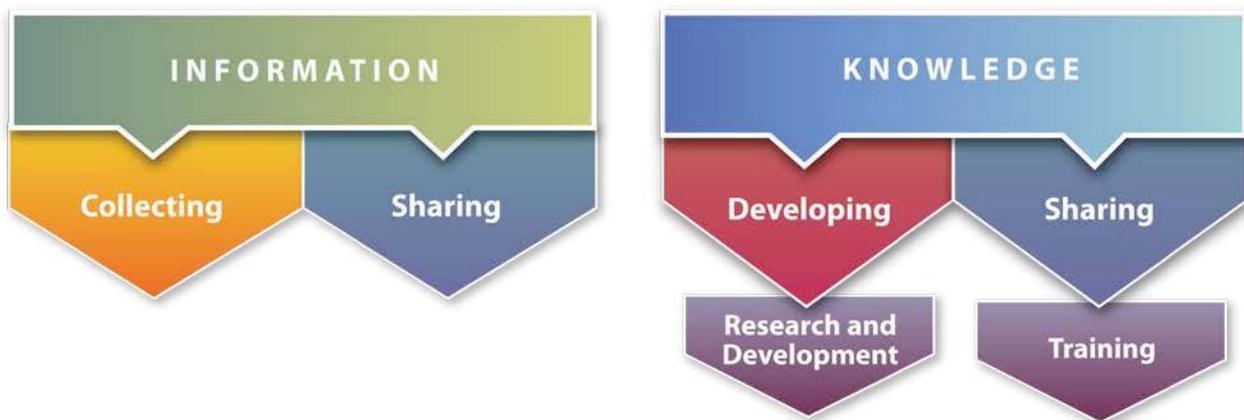
1.1 Role of NFPA and its Documents

NFPA is a nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. NFPA's Articles of Organization⁽¹⁾ clearly defines this purpose:

The purposes of the corporation (hereinafter referred to as the Association) shall be to promote the science and improve the methods of fire protection and prevention, electrical safety and other related safety goals; to obtain and circulate information and promote education and research on these subjects and to secure the cooperation of its members and the public in establishing proper safeguards against loss of life and property.

The association pursues this mission by *delivering information and knowledge*. Figure 1 illustrates this mission as collecting and disseminating information and developing and sharing

Figure 1. NFPA Mission

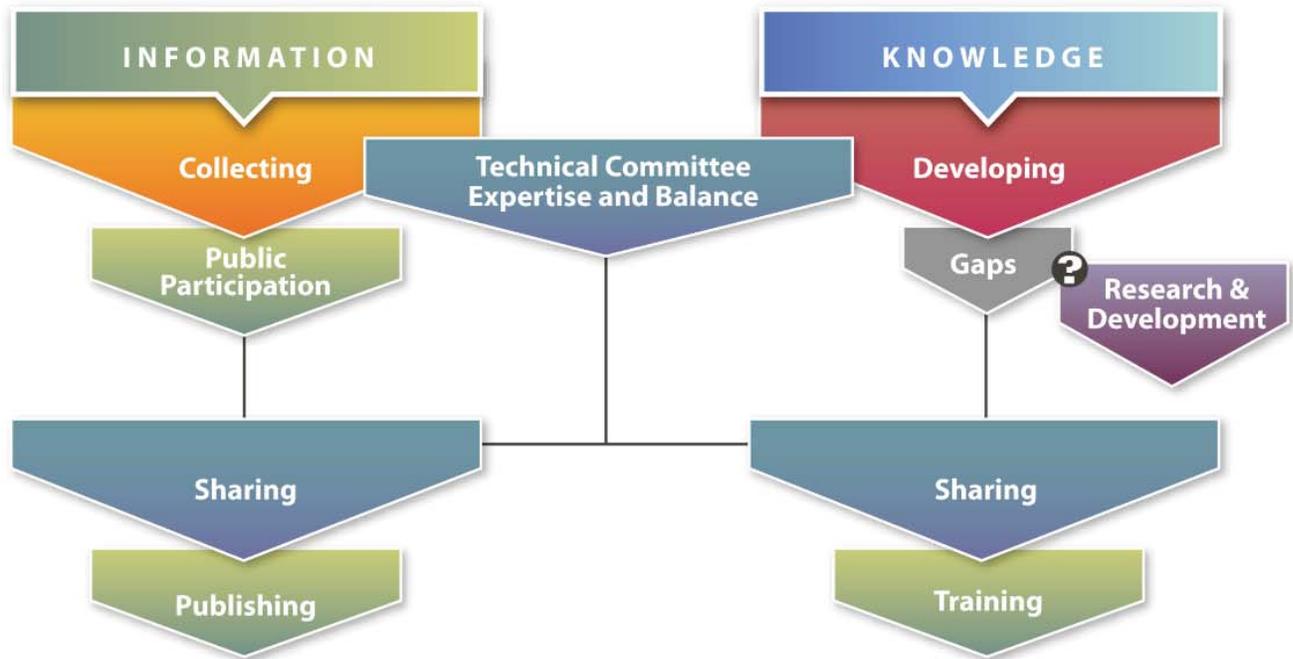


knowledge. One significant method available to the association to deliver information and knowledge is the consensus standards process it champions. As a consensus standards organization, NFPA has established processes and procedures to develop health and safety standards. In its broadest sense NFPA defines the term "standard" to include

a wide variety of technical works that prescribe rules, guidelines, best practices, specifications, test methods, design or installation procedures and the like. The size, scope and subject matter of standards varies widely, ranging from lengthy model building or electrical codes to narrowly scoped test methods or product specifications.⁽²⁾

The Technical Committees are given the latitude to develop Codes, Standards, Recommended Practices, or Guides within their scope and under the rules established by NFPA. Figure 2 demonstrated how the role of the Technical Committees helps to achieve NFPA's mission.

Figure 2. Role of Technical Committees
Standards Process (Applies to Guides and Recommended Practices)



1.2 Concepts of Resilience

The term *resiliency* has been used with increasing frequency in the context of how we build for, plan for, and respond to the variety of events that could interrupt the desired normalcy. For the purposes of this guide the term is best defined by Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 21⁽³⁾:

The term "resilience" means the ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Resilience includes the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents.

This brief definition includes many key words to focus our attention:

1. *Prepare for Changing Conditions* identifies the need to take certain actions in anticipation of potential events. This anticipation requires some analysis and understanding of the potential event(s).
2. *Adapt to changing conditions* implies a dynamic nature to the events and the responses to those events.
3. *Withstand disruptions* is one of the goals of preparing for events. The ability or capability to remain unchanged or unimpaired by disruptive events is the most desirable means of achieving resilience.
4. *Recover rapidly from disruptions* is another goal of preparing for and adapting to disruptive events. This *recovery* introduces response activities before, during, and after events to return to the desired state of normalcy in a timely manner.

Figure 3. Resilience



Figure 3 illustrates the relationship between preparedness and recovery.

Appendix 1 to this guide provides a literature review on the subject of *resiliency* to supplement the definition provided in PPD 21⁽⁴⁾. The many definitions and discussions demonstrate the value of considering these concepts in the development of NFPA documents. The common themes from these many definitions can be summarized for their use in characterizing the role of NFPA codes and standards as follows:

1. Resilience includes *technical, organizational, social and economic* dimensions.
2. Resilience requires actions described as planning, preparing, preventing, protecting, mitigating and responding.
3. Resilience requires preparation and response to be adaptive.
4. Resilience should focus on minimizing *damage and disruption to public health and safety, the economy, environment, and national security*.
5. Resilience includes the ability of structures and systems to withstand these external events, whether natural or human-created.

1.3 Application of Concepts to NFPA Activities

NFPA Technical Committees develop documents that educate and inform. When provided with enforcement language, those documents establish societal norms and expectations. The measure of NFPA Technical Committees success is in the quality of its documents. For the purposes of this guide the measures of quality can be stated as Accuracy, Completeness and Timeliness. These are important measure when introducing the evolving concepts of *Resilience*. Committees should consider whether they can achieve these measures of quality when addressing changes to existing documents or the development of new documents.

The decision process for going beyond the “minimum” requirements that traditionally has been the basis for NFPA Codes and Standards, as indicated above, will include *technical, organizational, social, and economic* considerations. These considerations may be difficult to codify. Each Technical Committee will have to evaluate if and how best to serve its documents’ users. A starting point is a review of the committee’s scope to ensure its activities and deliberations are sanctioned by the Standards Council. Next, the committee should consider the goals and objectives of their current document(s). Are the goals and objectives supported by or in concert with resiliency concepts? Likewise, if NFPA develops documents that contain “how to” advice on the application of resiliency concepts, where is the “when too” advise contained? If the committee desires to develop a new document to support resiliency, the document scope should be approved by the Standards Council.

1.4 Purpose and Scope of this Guidance Document

The purpose of this guidance document is to assist NFPA Technical Committees in understanding the concepts of *Disaster Resilience*, and how those concepts may apply to the scope of their committee documents. The guide's scope addresses the contextual definition of resilience, explains the existing resiliency frameworks developed by Federal Agencies, and emphasizes the risk informed approach to applying resiliency concepts to NFPA documents.