

Fire Detection and Alarm Research Council

Mission

To advance the implementation of detection and alarm system technology through research and communication programs, closely tied to the needs of NFPA Technical Committees.

Reporting Structure

The Council is a subdivision of the Fire Protection Research Foundation (the Foundation), which is solely responsible for its administration.

Membership

The Council is open to all individuals who support its mission; membership will be attained by registration with the administrator of the Foundation. The Executive Director of the Foundation will appoint an initial Chair of the Council, to serve until a Chair and Vice Chair are elected by membership of the Council for two year terms, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

The staff liaison of the NFPA Fire Alarm Technical Committees, an appointed liaison from these committees and from the Fire Protection Research Foundation Board of Trustees will serve by designation as members of the Council.

Role of the Foundation in General Council Activities

The Foundation shall oversee and have general charge of the affairs and activities of the Council. The Foundation shall designate a non-voting secretary to the Council, the secretary shall provide administrative services to its activities, including meeting arrangements, record keeping, and other activities as determined to be appropriate by the Board of Trustees.

Activities of the Council

The Council will meet at least annually; additional meetings may be held at the call of the Chair. An annual report of Council activities will be provided to all members. Regular electronic communication on current activities will be provided through a Council web presence and other means.

The Chair of the Council will appoint committees to carry out various activities in support of the mission including a research planning committee, project advisory committees, symposia planning committees, etc, as needed.

Research Programs

The primary activity of the Council will be to plan, oversee, and communicate on research programs in support of its mission as follows:

- The Council will engage in a research planning program to identify priority research projects through a Research Planning Committee, with input from the Council at large.
- The scope and preliminary research plan for these priority projects will be developed by the planning committee. This plan will include a management plan*, communications plan, and resource requirements for the project.
- The Foundation, in its role as administrator to the Council, will carry out a funding solicitation for the project, with the advice and guidance of the planning committee.
- When funding is secured for the program, the planning committee will appoint a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to oversee the project.
- Research projects will be administered by the Foundation, including the administration of funds, development of request for proposals for research activities and technical consultants, legal administration and oversight of performance on contracts, project management in accordance with the management plan, and formal project reports, with the guidance of the TAC.
- Regular reports on all research projects will be provided to the Council membership by the TAC through its website, and through presentations at various relevant industry meetings.

A secondary activity of the Council is to provide the community with updates on the state of the art in detection and alarm technology. The Council's symposia planning committee will oversee this activity; symposia will be administered by the Foundation.

All activities of the Council are subject to the approval of the Foundation Board of Trustees.

Funding

General Council Activities

Council membership is open to all who support its mission and the Foundation will support the general activities of the Council at no cost to participants. Direct costs of Council activities, including meetings, will be born by participants.

Research Projects

The Foundation will charge for its role in administration of Council research projects in accordance with a pre-determined budget which is based on reimbursement for projected expenditures of time and materials for a given project.

**Depending on the nature of the project, varying management models may be used. For example, if the project consists of a series of coordinated tasks by various individuals and institutions which requires technical oversight and timely interpretation of results, the committee may include the engagement of a technical project management consultant in its proposed management plan. If however, the project involves a research/testing program at one institution, this may not be required.*