



RESEARCH FOUNDATION

RESEARCH FOR THE NFPA MISSION

PROJECT SUMMARY

Railing Height, Design, and Criteria Review

11 January 2019

Background: There have been a number of incidents in the past several years where a fan or individual fell over the railing which resulted in serious injury or death.¹ There are several considerations in the requirements including: design issues, human body characteristics, and other safety considerations such as fall protection mechanisms.

Research Goal: Review incidents in public assembly venues or facilities where individuals have fallen as well as the current railing height requirements and technical basis to provide this information to the NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, Assembly Occupancy Technical Committee for consideration.

Project Tasks: This project is comprised of the following tasks:

- 1) **Incident Review.** Identify previous incidents and document a review to include: (a) Type of situations; (b) Frequency; (c) Contributing factors; (d) Changes resulting – operationally and/or local codes.
- 2) **Criteria Review.** Identify applicable and related standards and review to determine what the requirement is for common configurations, the basis for these requirements, and any historical changes.
- 3) **Report.** Prepare a report that documents the findings from Task 1 and 2.

Implementation: This research program will be conducted under the auspices of the Research Foundation in accordance with Foundation Policies and will be guided by a Project Technical Panel who will provide input to the project, review periodic reports of progress and research results, and review the final project report.

Schedule: The report is expected to be published in June 2019.

About us:

About the Fire Protection Research Foundation

The [Fire Protection Research Foundation](#) plans, manages, and communicates research on a broad range of fire



¹ Minkyu Lee, [A Literature Review of Emergency and Non-Emergency Events](#), Fire Protection Research Foundation, August 2012

safety issues in collaboration with scientists and laboratories around the world. The Foundation is an affiliate of NFPA.

About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. [All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free.](#) NFPA's [membership](#) totals more than 65,000 individuals around the world.

