Frequently Asked Questions

Fire Protection Research Foundation Student Project Initiative
(updated: 8/28/2020)

1. What is the timeline for these projects?
The typical project periods of these projects are around ~ 6 months. But we are flexible to work around the timeframe that the student and advisor are available and work around the academic time schedule.

2. What is the difference between FPRF funded and non-funded student projects?
Every year FPRF comes up with a list of student projects. This list is posted in the web page. It is possible that FPRF have funding available to support the student/advisor for these projects. This funding currently at $6,000 US Dollars which we issue either to the advisor or to the student or via university – this is based on the discussion with the project advisor/student to choose the best possible arrangement. If we provide the financial support for the project, the project will be conducted as per the FPRF policies. This means FPRF will appoint a small panel (consisting of minimum three individuals who are subject matter experts) who will provide guidance as required for the project and review the final report to provide feedback/comments. Typically, we will have three project meetings with the panel. This will be at the beginning of the project, an interim update of the project, and when the final report is ready for review. Once the final report is reviewed by panel and the student has made final corrections to the report, the FPRF will publish the report as technical note from our website. Note that all the FPRF reports are publicly available from our website. We also encourage the student to submit an abstract and present at other conferences (e.g., NFPA Conference and Expo research section student poster sessions).

If the FPRF does not have funding to support the project, we still encourage the interested students and advisors to pursue the project (if the project is still available). FPRF can coordinate the final deliverables (final report) in order to make sure that the NFPA Technical Committees of interest are properly informed. In this case, since FPRF is not providing funding, we will not have a panel.

3. What are the deliverables?
The deliverables are mostly a final report that captures all the necessary information completed for the project tasks with proper referencing and citations. Most of the student projects are
literature review, information gathering and gap analysis in nature. Once a project is selected and we have a panel formed, we shall further clarify the scope of the project. Some of our recently completed student projects are listed below:

e.g.1. Fire Hazard Assessment of Lead-Acid Batteries

e.g.2. Safe Quantity of Open Medical Gas Storage in Healthcare Facility Smoke Compartments

e.g.3. Estimation of Fireball Dimensions from NFPA 68

e.g.4. Literature Review on Spaceport Fire Safety

4. Can student pursue this part of their thesis work at the University?
Yes, Students can pursue these topics as part of their thesis requirement. However, the scope might vary for thesis requirements, and this is subjected to the University requirement. The administration of thesis work is independent from the FPRF project administration. If one of these projects are pursued as part of a thesis, we would still like to request a copy of the final thesis so that we can help the NFPA Technical Committee on the issue that we address through the project.

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