ABOUT NFPA

What is NFPA?
Founded in 1896, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. NFPA delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy.

How NFPA Can Assist Policymakers
NFPA’s office in Washington, DC, manages NFPA’s critical relationships with federal agencies, Congress, the White House, and the government affairs offices of major fire service, safety, and standards organizations. It also works with NFPA’s regional representatives to coordinate responses to state and local issues. The office is a resource for decision-makers throughout government who want access to a wide range of reliable, independent information — from safety codes and standards to educational materials on many topics such as preventing fires and advancing community risk reduction efforts.

How NFPA Stays Current with Safety Issues
Communities around the world are safer because of their use of NFPA codes and standards. Best known for NFPA 1, Fire Code, and NFPA 70®, National Electrical Code®, NFPA continues to respond to national security and first responder concerns as they change over time. For example, NFPA has developed standards for the planning and preparation for, response to, and recovery from an active shooter event and for the use of drones in public safety operations. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed for free online on the organization’s website at nfpa.org/standards.

NFPA standards are revised every three to five years through a robust, public, consensus process that is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and that involves balanced panels of experts and interested parties. NFPA believes that only by working together can those of us whose work affects the safety of others — from electricians to engineers to first responders — build a network of knowledge to help keep our increasingly complex world safe. NFPA is committed to leading this charge.

NFPA educational and public outreach efforts are often praised for their contribution to the safety of citizens in the United States and around the world. From detailed training and technical certifications to information targeting high risk groups like senior citizens, NFPA is a trusted source of safety information and data.

Learn More
NFPA has many resources available on a wide range of topics. Reach out to us to learn more:

Contact NFPA’s Washington office: 202-898-0222
Visit us: 50 F Street, NW, Suite 625
Washington, DC 20001
Access additional information: nfpa.org

© 2018 National Fire Protection Association / November 2018

BECOME AN NFPA MEMBER
FOR MORE OF THESE RESOURCES
What Is the Ecosystem?
As a non-profit organization dedicated to fire and life safety, NFPA® knows we don’t (and can’t) do anything alone; we work with others who share our interest and passion in protecting people and property in our world. We describe this concept of collaboration and interdependence as the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem where everyone responsible for the safety of the public has a specific role to fill to help reduce loss from fire, electrical, and related hazards.

Why It’s Important to Get Involved
As with any ecosystem, when all of the elements work together, the result is a fully functioning system that benefits everyone. If one of the elements fails, the system begins to break down. When tragedies occur, we can often trace the cause back to the breakdown of at least one of the elements. Policymakers play a key role in this safety ecosystem and keeping their constituents safe, from the implementation and enforcement of current codes and standards to providing funding for effective emergency response. Maintaining an effective policy and regulatory environment and supporting fire, electrical, building, and...
American consumers expect safety to be a high priority for their government leaders, according to NFPA’s Fire & Life Safety Policy Institute. In a 2017 survey of more than 1,000 individuals, respondents said they trust and expect government at all levels is keeping safety codes current with the latest safety advances and is not removing requirements that weaken those codes. Decisions to remove safety requirements or delay the use of updated codes undermine this public trust.

No one organization or group can implement the safety ecosystem alone. And while we may not be able to prevent every tragedy from happening, we believe that by recommitting to and promoting this full system of safety for prevention, protection, and education, we can further our work to help save lives and reduce loss.

Learn More
NFPA has many resources available on a wide range of topics. Reach out to us to learn more at nfpa.org/governmentaffairs. Additional information about the NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem can be found at nfpa.org/ecosystem.

Contact NFPA’s Washington office: 202-898-0222
Visit us: 50 F Street, NW, Suite 625, Washington, DC 20001
Access additional information: nfpa.org
The NFPA® standards development process is an open, consensus-based process for each of the more than 300 codes and standards published by the association. The NFPA process allows for participation by the public at every step in the process. All NFPA standards are revised and updated every three to five years. Normally a standard’s revision cycle takes approximately two years to complete. Each revision cycle proceeds according to a published schedule that includes opportunities for input by interested individuals and members of the public. The fundamental steps in the NFPA standards development process are shown in the diagram below.

Technical committees and panels serve as the principal consensus bodies responsible for developing and updating codes and standards. They typically consist of no more than 30 members representing a balance of interests. Technical committee and panel members are not required to be NFPA members. Appointment is based on factors such as technical expertise, professional standing, commitment to public safety, and the ability to bring to the table the point of view of a category of interested people or groups. Anyone can follow the progress of revising a code or standard online or sign up for email alerts. While this process can be time-consuming, it is thorough and results in high-quality standards that are used throughout the world.

Learn More

NFPA has many resources available on a wide range of topics. Reach out to us to learn more.

Contact NFPA’s Washington office: 202-898-0222
Visit us: 50 F Street, NW, Suite 625
Washington, DC 20001
Access additional information: nfpa.org

BECOME AN NFPA MEMBER
FOR MORE OF THESE RESOURCES
The Firewise USA® program provides a collaborative framework for neighbors to take action to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. The national recognition program’s criteria is designed to empower and engage residents living in wildfire prone areas with a plan and actions to undertake each year that can increase their home’s chances of surviving a wildfire while also making it safer for firefighters.

Steps to Achieving National Recognition

Complete a Wildfire Risk Assessment

• Completing a written wildfire risk assessment is the first step in becoming a nationally recognized Firewise USA® site.
• Contact your Firewise® state liaison for the state’s requirements on developing a risk assessment.

Form a Board/Committee

• Form a board/committee comprised of residents and other appropriate stakeholders.
• This group will collaborate on developing the site’s risk reduction priorities and they will develop a multi-year action plan based on the assessment, along with overseeing the completion of the annual renewal requirements.

Develop an Action Plan

• Action plans are a prioritized list of risk reduction projects developed by the participant’s board/committee for their site.
• Plans include recommended home ignition zone projects, educational activities and other stakeholder outreach efforts that the site will strive to complete annually or over multiple years.

Complete Educational Outreach Activity

• Each participating site is required to have a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event, or related activity annually.

Invest in Wildfire Risk Reduction

• At a minimum, each site is required to invest the equivalent value of one volunteer hour per dwelling unit in risk reduction activities annually.
• A wide range of qualifying actions and expenditures (contractor costs, rental equipment, resident activities, grants, etc.) comprise the overall investment totals.

Create a Site Profile and Apply

• Applicants begin the overall process by creating a site profile at: portal.firewise.org. The application is eligible for submission when the overall criteria is completed.
• State liaisons approve applications with final processing completed by the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®). Please note: Individual states may require additional application requirements beyond those of the national program.

NFPA has many free tools and resources available. Reach out to us to learn more: firewise.org.
NFPA produces dozens of widely-used reports every year on the overall fire problem, firefighter fatalities and injuries, major fire causes, fire protection systems, and many other topics. NFPA is playing a major role in the growing importance of data analytics in fire and life safety and helping shape the impact that new technology is having in fire prevention and protection today.

As the research affiliate of NFPA, the Fire Protection Research Foundation is an independent nonprofit whose mission is to plan, manage, and communicate research in support of the NFPA. The Foundation was established in 1982 in response to a growing need for research that better informs NFPA’s expanding body of codes and standards. To ensure the research remains independent, the Foundation was formed as a separate 501(c)(3) organization.

Since then, the Foundation has facilitated major research programs (both domestic and international in scope) that address industry challenges in multiple areas, including detection and signaling, hazardous materials, electrical safety, fire suppression, storage of commodities, and firefighter protective clothing and equipment, among other issues. Each project is guided by a technical panel that provides its expertise with input from the research community, the fire service, NFPA technical committees, and other stakeholders. Findings from the Foundation’s critically applied research have been used by NFPA’s technical committee members and others to support the organization’s fire and life safety codes and standards. The Foundation is currently focusing significant effort on two emerging concepts in fire protection: smart firefighting and resiliency.

Policymakers play a critical role in reducing the risk of fire, electrical, and other life safety hazards for citizens. Actions like enacting and enforcing building codes and carrying out fire inspections are examples of government efforts that contribute to the reduction in fires and associated losses. Moving forward, changing infrastructure, new technology, evolving risks, and competing priorities will all put pressure on maintaining strong fire and life safety protection measures. The Fire & Life Safety Policy Institute helps policymakers understand and navigate these issues through analysis and recommended policy approaches to protect citizens.

Learn More
NFPA has many resources available on a wide range of topics. Reach out to us to learn more.

Contact NFPA’s Washington office: 202-898-0222
Visit us: 50 F Street, NW, Suite 625
Washington, DC 20001
Access additional information: nfpa.org

© 2018 National Fire Protection Association / November 2018
Need information? NFPA® can provide a wealth of information on many topics. Use the following links to access information on the following topics:

- Fire and electrical safety research: nfpa.org/News-and-Research
- Firefighter health and safety: nfpa.org/ffhealthandwellness
- Fire Prevention Week™: nfpa.org/fpw
- Wildfire Community Preparedness Day: nfpa.org/wildfireprepday
- Research programs: nfpa.org/foundation

In addition to providing research, data, and other key information, NFPA can help in many other ways, such as the following.

- Learn how fire sprinklers are proven to save lives: firesprinklerinitiative.org
- Sign up for NFPA training courses: nfpa.org/training
- Get free access to NFPA codes and standards: nfpa.org/codes
- Serve on an NFPA technical committee: nfpa.org/tcapply

Become an NFPA member:
nfpa.org/NFPA-Membership

Join NFPA’s world-class team:
careers.nfpa.org

Learn More
NFPA has many resources available on a wide range of topics. Reach out to us to learn more.

Contact NFPA’s Washington office: 202-898-0222
Visit us: 50 F Street, NW, Suite 625
Washington, DC 20001
Access additional information: nfpa.org
Jim Pauley is the president and chief executive officer of the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), which is a global, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. Mr. Pauley also serves as chairman of the board of the Fire Protection Research Foundation.

Prior to joining NFPA, Mr. Pauley concluded a 30-year career in the electrical and energy industry where he most recently served as senior vice president for external affairs and government relations for Schneider Electric.

Mr. Pauley has served in a number of leadership positions including chairman of the NFPA Standards Council, chairman of the board for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and chair of the High Performance Building Council for the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. He has received numerous awards and recognitions including the George S. Wham Leadership Medal from ANSI and his induction into the Engineering Hall of Distinction at the University of Kentucky.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Kentucky and was a licensed professional engineer in Kentucky.