

BECOMING AN NFPA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

Committee Member Selections

- Appointment to a Technical Committee is based on;
 - Qualifications of the applicant
 - Balance of interest categories on the committee
 - Maintaining the committee at a manageable working size
 - The ability of the applicant to attend and participate all committee meetings
 - Does not need to be an active NFPA association member
- An [application for technical committee membership](#) should be completed and returned along with a current résumé (if you are an enforcer without a résumé series of questions) for review by the NFPA Standards Council. The Council meets three times a year to consider technical committee appointments.
- All such appointments are subject to annual review and reappointment by the Council. Members, who consistently fail to attend meetings, neglect to return ballots, or otherwise exhibit lack of interest, knowledge, or responsibility shall not be reappointed and may be removed for the stated causes at any time. ([Regs 3.1.3.1](#))
- **Organization representation is preferred.** Organizational applicants have a better chance of getting appointed to a committee since it brings the views of many to the committee rather than one individual or company. Many of our committee members represent organizations such as IAFC, API, SPI, ACC, AGA, NEMA, AFAA, NAFED, IAFF, IFMA, etc.
- NFPA encourages all principal applicants to also have an alternate apply. An alternate will ensure your voice is heard in the event of unforeseen circumstances where you may be unable to participate.

Expectations of Committee Member

- Familiarize yourself with the [NFPA Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards](#) and [Guide for Conduct](#).
- Actively participate in the work of the committee.
- Willingness and ability to communicate by e-mail and to have access to NFPA website
- Ability to discuss and disagree in a professional manner. Consensus is based on a balance of discussion and disagreement is natural.
- Contribute to the development of the assigned documents that are revised every 3-5 years
- All members are expected to provide input on committee document(s) and on the ideas provided by others for change, based on the interest they represent.
- It is encouraged that all principal members have an appointed alternate in the event that the principal member is unavailable to participate in the meeting or return ballots.
- All members are required to return all ballots
- Committee members are responsible for their own travel expenses to attend meetings

Meeting Time Commitment

- Approximately 10 meeting days over a 5 year period, typically 1 to 3 days per meeting, sometimes longer.
- Meetings are held at various locations around the country, often rotating if there are members on both coasts. Location is based upon input by committee members, the Chair, and the Staff Liaison. Hosted meetings are often offered through a member's organization.
- There are some opportunities to hold committee meetings by telephone and web conference depending on the workload and complexity of the issues.
- Task group work, if any, can be done via e-mail, conference calls as well as physical meetings.

Training for Committee Members

NFPA offers the Committee Leadership Conference which is held annually at the June NFPA Conference and Expo. This session is open to all officers of technical committees. This four-hour Conference is a formalized training program that provides each NFPA Committee Officer with specific training in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of his or her assignment. Another benefit of the training session is the sharing of experiences between committee members on how committees deal with difficult issues during the processing of their documents. The Conference is open to all NFPA Committee Members and others who wish to attend.