



About the Fire Protection Research Foundation



FPRF Origins

The Fire Protection Research Foundation, also referred to as the FPRF or simply “Research Foundation,” was established in 1982 in response to a growing need for research that better informed NFPA’s expanding body of codes and standards. To ensure the research remained 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, firefighter health and safety, and emerging technologies, among other issues.

What is the role of the FPRF?

As an independent, non-profit research entity, the Research Foundation is dedicated to planning, managing, and facilitating research, specifically in support of the NFPA mission to make the world safer from fire, electrical and related hazards. We address all the topics that fall under the NFPA purview, including

fire protection, emergency response and virtually everything that challenges safety in the built environment. Our operational scope is not based on any geographic boundaries because unwanted fire is a worldwide problem. Our vision is to be the premier global research delivery organization so that we can eliminate death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related issues. While FPRF and NFPA are separate organizations, the vision and mission statements are aligned and in support of one another.

How is the FPRF related to NFPA?

The FPRF is the research affiliate of the NFPA, located at NFPA headquarters in Quincy, Mass. However, we are separate, independent, nongovernmental, nonprofit organizations. The FPRF has half a dozen employees, whereas NFPA has more than 300 staff members. Our team is very active and generally responsible for managing more than four dozen research projects at any given time on a wide range of topics. Our board of trustees is separate from NFPA. They provide oversight on all FPRF activities.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)



The NFPA Mission is to help save lives and reduce loss with information, knowledge, and passion.

The NFPA vision is to be the leading global advocate for the elimination of death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.

Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF)



The Research Foundation’s mission is to plan, manage and communicate research in support of the NFPA mission.

The Research Foundation’s vision is to be the premier global research delivery organization for the elimination of death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.

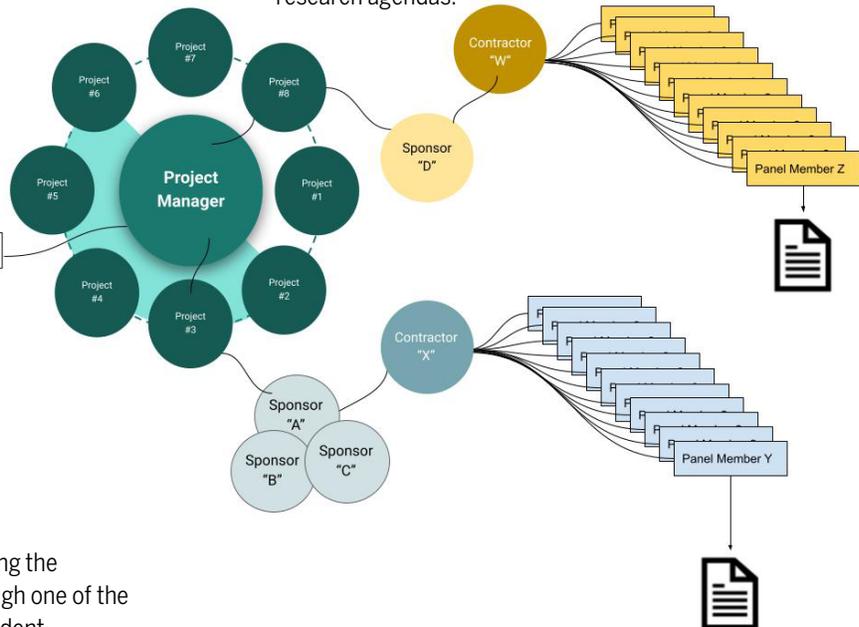


About the FPRF Process

How does FPRF get ideas for research projects?

FPRF collects research ideas from industry stakeholders year around. Our project idea submission portal can be accessed on our [website](#). Project ideas typically come from:

- A Technical Committee struggling with an issue; research concept proposed by staff liaison for respective code or standard.
- Industry wants to introduce a new technology into standard but needs data to support it.
- When there are two opposing views on an issue and independent data/research is needed.
- When independent and credible research and testing is needed because data available to a committee is not trusted.
- An emerging technical issue where industry needs guidance (e.g., alternative energy)
- When a research planning activity is needed.



Who are the project participants?

Project Sponsors. The representatives providing the financial support for the project, whether through one of the Foundation's research consortiums or independent organizations (e.g. manufacturers, trade associations, NFPA, federal agencies, research organizations, etc.)

Contractors – Entity conducting the research. This can include consultants, research organizations, test labs, universities, NFPA Research, others.

Project Technical Panelists (advisory oversight). The project technical panel is a group of subject matter experts with diverse representation and expertise in the subject matter being addressed through a specific research project, who are appointed by FPRF staff. It is normally a small group of 6 to 15 representatives.

How are project ideas vetted and prioritized at FPRF?

The following vetting criteria are used for evaluating Foundation project priorities:

- **Technical and Scientific Value.** The value-added from a technical and scientific standpoint, and the positive benefits from the perceived societal impact.
- **Problem Magnitude.** The magnitude of the problem as compared to overall mission of NFPA and/or its influence on applicable activities (e.g., the respective standard document).
- **Time Criticality.** The consideration of timing issues that directly impact the value of the outcomes.
- **Feasibility.** The likelihood of success for FPRF engagement on the project, considering factors such as the uniqueness of the Foundation's position, availability of funding, etc.
- **Strategic Research Agenda.** The positioning of the topic in relation to overarching research guidance such as strategic research agendas.

How do FPRF projects get funded?

The FPRF is self-funded and self-sufficient. Our funding is derived from several sources, including management fees from consortia projects, in which project sponsors pool their funding in support of research; direct labor rates for grant-funded projects; attendance fees at FPRF-hosted symposiums; sponsors for online webinars; and the occasional project that the FPRF staff directly handles. Fundraising is a significant priority for our work, and we have been very effective at raising the necessary resources to meet research objectives.



How you can participate in the FPRF process



Submit a research idea

Have you identified a need in the industry that is in need of research, or technical substantiation? FPRF accepts research ideas, year around. Go to the research idea submission portal on our website, to submit a research request to FPRF.

Submit a research idea

Join a FPRF Research Consortium

Get involved and have a voice in the process. FPRF has three research consortiums: Property Insurance Research Group, Energy Storage Research Consortium, and the Facilities Research Consortium. The consortium members pay an annual fee to support research identified and prioritized by the group. Members have a voice in the projects prioritized, and the overall scope and direction.

Join a research planning council

Join a research consortium

Join a FPRF Project Technical Panel

All FPRF Projects have a project technical panel of subject matter experts to provide guidance and oversight to the technical conduct of the projects. Get involved and contribute your expertise to FPRF projects by serving on a project technical panel by emailing foundation@nfpa.org and identifying your background, expertise, and interest to participate in panels in future applicable projects.

Sponsor a FPRF project, webinar or event

Serve as a project technical panelist

Apply to be a project contractor

Become a research partner

Join a research planning council

Get involved in the process. FPRF has three research planning councils on suppression, detection and signaling, and electrical safety. These councils allow FPRF to hear from stakeholders on the most pressing challenges in need of research, and allows industry stakeholders to help vet and prioritize our research agenda.

Sponsor an FPRF activity

FPRF research activities could not be accomplished without the critical support of our sponsors. FPRF offers sponsorship opportunities for research projects, webinars, workshops and our annual SUPDET Conference. Benefits include input on project scope, monitor research direction and progress, provide guidance and technical oversight, receive early access to project results, and brand awareness.

Bid on RFPs to become a project contractor

FPRF periodically releases "Requests for Proposals" seeking a project contractor for a specific scope of work. Request to join the bidders list by emailing foundation@nfpa.org or learn more about the process of responding to RFPs by reading the "Guidance for Contractors" document or watching this short video.

Become a research partner

Are you leading research, and looking for a partner to bring in project management and technical expertise from the fire and life safety community or fire service community? Contact FPRF to be a research partner through our advisory service program.