

August 19, 2014

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RALPH M. TERRAZAS
FIRE CHIEF

August 8, 2014

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 14-085

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: NFPA STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO THE LAFD

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards are developed through a consensus process approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). These committees are composed of fire service professionals, labor, and volunteer industry representatives that develop codes and standards concerning public safety. Although the NFPA Standards do not hold the force of law and are not considered legal requirements in California, state regulatory agencies and the courts often turn to the Standards for guidance in the absence of statutory regulations. The Department makes every effort to comply with applicable standards. (Note: This report does not discuss NFPA fire prevention and life safety codes.)

There are 300 published NFPA standards and codes, many of which specifically address fire department operations. A number of these standards influence fire department emergency service delivery, staffing, response capabilities, emergency management of resources, incident management, training, and communications. The NFPA standards described in this report are separated into three categories: Deployment and Emergency Operations, Protective Clothing and Equipment, and Training Standards for the Fire Service.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:
Receive and file this report.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

NFPA 1221 - Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems

- This standard covers the installation, performance, operation, and maintenance of public emergency services communications systems and facilities.

NFPA 1500 - Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program

- This Standard includes safety requirements for members involved in rescue, fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials operations, special operations, and related activities. Protocols cover firefighter training, apparatus, protective clothing and equipment, medical and physical requirements, and health and wellness programs.

NFPA 1710 - Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments

- This standard specifies requirements for effective and efficient organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency medical operations, and special operations to the public by career fire departments to protect citizens and the occupational safety and health of fire department employees. Provisions cover functions and objectives of fire department emergency service delivery, response capabilities, and resources, including staffing levels, response times, and levels of service. General criteria for managing resources and systems, such as health and safety, incident management, training, communications, and pre-incident planning are also provided.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

NFPA 1971 - Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting

- This standard protects fire fighting personnel by establishing minimum levels of protection from thermal, physical, environmental, and blood borne pathogen hazards encountered during structural and proximity firefighting operations.

NFPA 1975 - Standard on Station/Work Uniforms for Emergency Services

- This standard safeguards emergency services personnel on the job by establishing requirements for flame-resistant station uniform clothing that won't cause or exacerbate burn injury.

NFPA 1977 - Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting

- This standard establishes requirements for protective clothing and equipment to protect against the adverse environmental effects encountered by personnel performing wildland fire fighting operations.

NFPA 1981 - Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services

- This standard establishes levels of respiratory protection and functional requirements for SCBA used by emergency services personnel.

NFPA 1982 - Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)

- This standard establishes requirements intended to ensure reliable performance of personal alert safety systems (PASS) that enable emergency responders to signal or help if they get lost, disoriented, trapped, injured, or run out of breathing air during emergency operations.

NFPA 1999 - Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations

- This standard specifies requirements for EMS protective clothing to protect personnel performing patient care during emergency medical operations from contact with blood and body fluid-borne pathogens. It also includes additional requirements that provide limited protection from specified CBRN terrorism agents.

TRAINING STANDARDS

NFPA 1001 - Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

- This standard identifies the minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) for career and volunteer firefighters whose duties are primarily structural in nature.

NFPA 1002 - Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications

- This standard identifies the minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) for career and volunteer firefighters and fire brigade personnel who drive and operate fire apparatus.

NFPA 1021 - Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications

- This standard shall identify the minimum job performance requirements necessary to perform the duties of a fire officer and specifically identify four levels of progression.

NFPA 1026 - Standard for Incident Management Personnel Professional Qualifications

- This standard identifies the minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) for personnel performing roles within an all-hazards incident management system.

NFPA 1051 Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

- This standard identifies the minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) for wildland fire fighting personnel.

NFPA 1403 - Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions

- This standard provides minimum requirements for conducting live fire training to ensure they are conducted in safe facilities and a safe manner for participants.

NFPA 1410 - Standard on Training for Initial Emergency Scene Operations

- This standard provides fire departments with an objective method of measuring performance for initial fire suppression and rescue procedures used by fire department personnel engaged in emergency scene operations using available personnel and equipment.

NFPA 1670 – Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents

- This standard identifies and establishes levels of functional capability for efficiently and effectively conducting operations at technical search and rescue incidents while minimizing threats to rescuers. It is intended to help the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) assess a technical search and rescue hazard within the response area, identify the level of operational capability, and establish operational criteria.

CONCLUSION

The NFPA Codes and Standards are consensus standards that provide for the safety to life and protection of property. Although the Codes and Standards do not hold the force of law in California, they are often treated as such by courts and regulatory agencies, and as a result, the Department is measured by how well it follows them. The Department makes every effort to comply with applicable standards. The Standards are updated and revised every three to five years in revision cycles and provide the fire service with standards and codes to protect the public and employees, and manage and prevent disasters from occurring.

A complete list of NFPA Standards can be viewed at the following website:
<http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/document-information-pages>.

Board report prepared by Steve Hissong, Battalion Chief, Planning Section.