

# NFPA® 1

## Fire Code

### 2021



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## NFPA® 1

### Fire Code

#### 2021 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1, *Fire Code*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Code and acted on by the NFPA membership during the 2020 NFPA Technical Meeting held June 8–29. It was issued by the Standards Council on August 11, 2020, with an effective date of August 31, 2020, and supersedes all previous editions.

This document has been amended by one or more Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) and/or Errata. See “Codes & Standards” at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more information.

This edition of NFPA 1 was approved as an American National Standard on August 31, 2020.

#### Origin and Development of NFPA 1

This *Code* was originally developed as a result of the requests of many members of the National Fire Protection Association for a document covering all aspects of fire protection and prevention that used the other developed NFPA codes and standards. NFPA staff initiated this work in 1971 upon a directive from the NFPA Board of Directors. The original code was written around a format that served as a guide for the development of a local fire prevention code. Prerogatives of local officials were excluded from the main text of the document but were included within appendices as guidance for exercising desired prerogatives.

In the late 1980s, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (now the International Fire Marshals Association [IFMA]) undertook the task of developing a code that was more self-contained, adding administrative sections and extracting heavily from other NFPA codes and standards. The draft was submitted to the Fire Prevention Code Committee. The committee examined changes in the built environment as it is affected by fire and incorporated significant portions of the *Life Safety Code*®. A special task group on hazardous materials examined technological changes in the handling, storage, and use of flammable and combustible materials. Chapters extracting hazardous material requirements placed a greater emphasis on protection of life and property from chemical products made and used in the environment. A major rewrite resulted in the 1992 edition of the *Fire Prevention Code*.

The 1997 edition updated the text extracted from other NFPA codes and standards and added compliance with additional NFPA codes and standards as part of the requirements of NFPA 1.

The 2000 edition of NFPA 1 was a complete revision that updated the text extracted from other NFPA codes and standards. Additional direct references from NFPA codes and standards that are essential to a code official's use of the document were added. The committee also added a new section on performance-based design as a tool for code officials and design professionals. NFPA 1 was restructured to be more functional with respect to administration, code enforcement, and regulatory adoption processes.

The 2003 edition of NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*™, was a complete revision. It incorporated provisions from the Western Fire Chiefs, *Uniform Fire Code*™, under a partnership between NFPA and Western Fire Chiefs, while it updated and expanded the provisions extracted from other key NFPA codes and standards. To emphasize the partnership, the document was renamed NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*™. The *Uniform Fire Code* is a trademark of the Western Fire Chiefs Association. NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*™, was restructured into parts to be more compatible with the regulatory adoption procedures, including administration and code enforcement, occupancies, processes, equipment, and hazardous materials provisions. The Committee included a newly expanded chapter on performance-based design as an enhanced tool for code officials and design professionals. Additional extracts and references from NFPA codes and standards that are essential to a code official's use of the document were added, bringing the number of referenced NFPA codes and standards to over 125. Additional chapters on hazardous materials were included that incorporate the provisions covered in the *Uniform Fire Code*™.

The 2006 edition of NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*, was a complete revision of the code that incorporated the provisions from NFPA 230, *Standard for the Fire Protection of Storage*. The Technical Committee on Uniform Fire Code had been given responsibility for NFPA 230 by the NFPA Standards Council, so they incorporated the requirements into NFPA 1 rather than maintain a separate standard.

The 2006 edition of NFPA 1 also included new chapters on classification of occupancy, motion picture studios, outdoor tire storage, and general storage, along with other extracted provisions updated and expanded the from other key NFPA codes and standards that were essential to a code official's use of the document. The number of NFPA codes and standards referenced in this edition was 117.

With the 2009 edition of NFPA 1, the title of the document was changed from *Uniform Fire Code* to *Fire Code*. The revision updated all the extracted provisions from the 117 codes and standards that were included as mandatory reference publications in the 2006 edition. The revisions also included an expansion of Section 12.5 on interior finish to contain extracted provisions from NFPA 101; an expansion of Section 12.6 on furnishings, contents, decorations, and treated fabrics to contain extracted provisions from NFPA 101; a new Section 18.4, which moved fire flow requirements for buildings from Annex H; a new Section 32.5 for regulating locations for motion picture and television production studios, soundstages, and approved production facilities with extracted provisions from NFPA 140; and new Sections 40.3 through 40.7 on combustible dust explosion protection and fire prevention with extracted provisions from NFPA 654. Additional information on hazardous materials classifications was added to Annex B. This revision also added three annexes to the 2009 edition, including Annex O, In-Building Public Safety Radio Enhancement Systems; Annex P, Fire Department Service Delivery Concurrency Evaluation; and Annex Q, Fire Fighter Safety Building Marking System. The number of NFPA codes and standards referenced in this edition was 119.

Six annexes published in the 2006 edition were deleted from the 2009 edition, including Annex E, Model Citation Program; Annex F, Model Fees and Charges Program; Annex H, Fire Flow Requirements for Buildings; Annex J, Protection of Outdoor Storage; Annex M, Recommendations for Fighting Rubber Tire Fires in Sprinklered Buildings; and Annex N, AHJ Minimum Qualifications and Job Descriptions for Code Enforcement Personnel.

The 2012 edition of NFPA 1 included revisions to requirements for the fire code board of appeals (Section 1.10); certificates of fitness (Section 1.13); application limits of referenced standards (Section 2.1); emergency plan provisions (Section 10.9); prohibited storage of grills on balconies (10.11.6.2); new requirements for standardized elevator keys (11.3.6); new requirements for determination of fire department communication capabilities in buildings and two-way radio communication enhancement systems and deleted former Annex O (Section 11.10); medical gas and vacuum systems (Section 11.11); photovoltaic systems (Section 11.12); quality assurance of fire barrier penetrations and joints (12.3.2); and automatic sprinkler system requirement for new buildings three or more stories in height above grade (13.3.2.4). The 2012 edition also relocated former Annex P to the new Chapter 15, Fire Department Service Delivery Concurrency Evaluation; expanded Chapter 17, Wildland Urban Interface; added a new Chapter 36, Telecommunication Facilities and Information Technology Equipment; added a new Chapter 37, Fixed Guideway Transit and Passenger Rail Systems; added requirements for carbon monoxide detection in residential occupancies; relocated former Annex G to the new Chapter 54, Ozone Gas-Generating Equipment; extensively revised Chapter 60, Hazardous Materials, to extract from NFPA 400, *Hazardous Materials Code*; updated Chapter 66, Flammable and Combustible Liquids, per the current edition of NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*; revised Chapter 67, Flammable Solids, to reference NFPA 400; revised Chapter 68, Highly Toxic and Toxic Solids and Liquids, to reference NFPA 400; completely revised Chapter 70, Oxidizer Solids and Liquids; revised Chapter 71, Pyrophoric Solids and Liquids, to reference NFPA 400; revised Chapter 72, Unstable (Reactive) Solids and Liquids, to reference NFPA 400; added a new Chapter 74, Ammonium Nitrate; added a new Chapter 75, Organic Peroxide Solids and Liquids; deleted Annex K, Explanation of Rack Storage Test Data and Procedures; deleted Annex L, Protection of Baled Cotton: History of Guidelines; and updated all extracts through the Annual 2011 revision cycle.

Key revisions for the 2015 edition of NFPA 1 included the prohibition of the use of sky lanterns (10.10.9.3); expanded application of photovoltaic system requirements to existing installations (Section 11.12); AHJ authorization to permit the removal of nonrequired, existing occupant-use hose (13.2.2.6); mandatory automatic sprinkler requirement for all new hotels without exception (13.3.2.15); enhanced attic protection for residential board and care occupancies with residential sprinkler systems (13.3.2.21.2.7); expanded occupancy-based fire alarm system provisions to correlate with NFPA 101 (Section 13.7); new occupant load factor for concentrated business use (14.8.1.2); completely revised fire hydrant location and distribution requirements and deleted former Annex E (Section 18.5); revisions to NFPA 654 extracts for dust explosion prevention (Chapter 40); new hot work permit limits from NFPA 51B (41.3.4.4); expanded existing commercial cooking equipment extinguishing system requirements from NFPA 96 (50.4.4.3.2); expanded ammonia refrigeration system maintenance and testing requirements (Section 53.3); updated hazardous materials maximum allowable quantities from NFPA 400 (60.4.2); new provisions for alcohol-based hand rub dispensers from NFPA 101 (60.5.2); revisions to aerosol product classifications from NFPA 30B (61.1.3); new requirements for cleaning and purging gas piping systems from NFPA 55 (63.3.1.19); new provisions for cooking oil storage tank systems in commercial kitchens from NFPA 30 (66.19.7); and updates of all extracts through the Annual 2014 revision cycle.

The 2018 edition of NFPA 1 included revisions to requirements for the application of referenced publications (1.4.1.1 and 2.1.1); references for the professional qualifications for fire inspectors, plan examiners, and fire marshals (1.7.2); new

minimum fire prevention inspection frequencies for existing occupancies (10.2.7); updates to premises identification (10.11.1); new and updated marking and access criteria for photovoltaic systems (Section 11.12); new provisions for rubberized asphalt melters (Section 16.7); listing requirements for electric gates used on fire department access roads (18.2.4.2.6); new provisions on the outside storage of biomass feedstock (31.3.10); new requirements for the outdoor storage of wood and wood composite pallets or listed pallets equivalent to wood (34.10.3); a new chapter on marijuana growing, processing, or extraction facilities (Chapter 38); a revision of Chapter 40 to replace extracts from NFPA 654 with extracted provisions from NFPA 652 (Chapter 40); complete reorganization of aircraft fuel servicing provisions in accordance with NFPA 407 (Section 42.10); a new section on mobile and temporary cooking operations (Section 50.7); extensive revisions of Chapter 52 on energy storage systems (Chapter 52); a new Chapter 55 on cleaning and purging of flammable gas piping systems with reference to NFPA 56 (Chapter 55); new provisions for insulated liquid carbon dioxide systems extracted from NFPA 55 (Section 63.9); a new annex on fire-fighter breathing-air replenishment systems (Annex E); and updates of all extracts through the Annual 2017 revision cycle.

Key revisions for the 2021 edition include updates to in-building emergency responder communication enhancement system requirements for better alignment with NFPA 1221 (Section 11.10); new signage requirements for nonsprinklered high-rise buildings (13.3.2.25.2.4); new provisions for carbon dioxide enrichment equipment, indoor horticultural grow structures, and listing requirements for extraction equipment as they relate to cannabis facilities (Chapter 38); a new chapter on wastewater treatment and collection facilities (Chapter 39); a new chapter on additive manufacturing (3D printing, Chapter 46); energy storage system requirements extracted from NFPA 855 (Chapter 52); and updates of all extracts through the Annual 2020 revision cycle.

NFPA 1 reflects the technical knowledge of the committees responsible for the codes and standards referenced in, and from which text is extracted and incorporated into, the technical provisions of NFPA 1. This *Code* is intended to provide state, county, and local jurisdictions with an effective fire code.



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*This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.*

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

**Committee Scope:** This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on a Fire Prevention Code that includes appropriate administrative provisions, to be used with the National Fire Codes for the installation, operation, and maintenance of buildings, structures, and premises for the purpose of providing safety to life and property from fire and explosion. This includes development of requirements for, and maintenance of, systems and equipment for fire control and extinguishment. Safety to life of occupants of buildings and structures is under the primary jurisdiction of the Committee on Safety to Life.



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