

NFPA[®]

18A

**Standard on
Water Additives
for Fire Control
and Vapor Mitigation**

2017



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NFPA® 18A

Standard on

Water Additives for Fire Control and Vapor Mitigation

2017 Edition

This edition of NFPA 18A, *Standard on Water Additives for Fire Control and Vapor Mitigation*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Water Additives for Fire Control and Vapor Mitigation. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 11, 2016, with an effective date of December 1, 2016, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 18A was approved as an American National Standard on December 1, 2016.

Origin and Development of NFPA 18A

In 1998, the NFPA Standards Council approved the formation of the Technical Committee on Water Additives for Fire Control and Vapor Mitigation. The committee was tasked with having primary responsibility for documents on the manufacture, testing, application, and use of water additives for the control and/or suppression of fire and flammable vapor mitigation, including water additives used to prevent or reduce the spread of fire and the use of water additives in fixed, semi-fixed, mobile, and portable fire suppression systems. The standard they were given was NFPA 18, *Wetting Agents*.

Initially, the committee proposed to combine wetting agents and water additives under one standard. This effort was returned to the committee by Association action in June 2003. As a result, the committee decided to divide this work into two subject areas and standards, retaining and revising NFPA 18 and creating a new standard addressing water additives, NFPA 18A, the first edition of which was issued in 2007.

Changes in the 2011 edition include a reorganization of Chapters 5 and 6, clarification of test procedures and criteria, and the removal of secondary (U.S.) units throughout much of the text.

The 2017 edition has undergone extensive technical and editorial revision. Technical changes include a new chapter to address Class C fire test methods to provide the fire service with safe limits for fire attack on energized electrical equipment. Editorial changes include updating the structure of the standard to further comply with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the manufacture, testing, application, and use of water additives for the control and/or suppression of fire and flammable vapor mitigation including water additives used to prevent or reduce the spread of fire and the use of water additives in fixed, semi-fixed, mobile, and portable fire suppression systems.

Contents

Chapter 1 Administration	18A- 4	7.2 Spill Fire Test.	18A- 13
1.1 Scope.	18A- 4	7.3 Pool Fire Test.	18A- 14
1.2 Purpose.	18A- 4	7.4 Three-Dimensional Fuel Fire Test for Manual Application.	18A- 15
1.3 Application.	18A- 4	7.5 Three-Dimensional Fire Test for Fixed Fire Suppression.	18A- 15
1.4 Retroactivity.	18A- 4	7.6 Polar Solvents Fire Test. (Reserved)	18A- 15
1.5 Equivalency.	18A- 4	7.7 Emulsification Test.	18A- 15
1.6 Units and Formulas.	18A- 4	7.8 Fuel in Depth Fire Test. (Reserved)	18A- 16
Chapter 2 Referenced Publications	18A- 4	Chapter 8 Class C Fire Test Methods	18A- 16
2.1 General.	18A- 4	8.1 General.	18A- 16
2.2 NFPA Publications.	18A- 4	8.2 Extinguisher Test.	18A- 16
2.3 Other Publications.	18A- 5	8.3 Manual Operations Test.	18A- 16
2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.	18A- 5	8.4 Arc Conductor Test.	18A- 17
Chapter 3 Definitions	18A- 5	Chapter 9 Packaging and Labeling	18A- 18
3.1 General.	18A- 5	9.1 Packaging.	18A- 18
3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.	18A- 5	9.2 Storage.	18A- 18
3.3 General Definitions.	18A- 6	9.3 Labeling.	18A- 18
Chapter 4 Uses and Limitations	18A- 7	Chapter 10 Supply	18A- 19
4.1 General.	18A- 7	10.1 System Requirements.	18A- 19
4.2 Limitations.	18A- 7	10.2 Fire Department Supply Requirements.	18A- 19
4.3 Compatibility of Water Additive Concentrate and Solutions.	18A- 7	10.3 Fixed Systems.	18A- 19
4.4 Concentrations.	18A- 7	Chapter 11 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Fixed Systems	18A- 19
Chapter 5 Properties and General Test Protocols for Evaluation of Water Additive Concentrate and Solution	18A- 7	11.1 Fixed Extinguishing Systems.	18A- 19
5.1 General.	18A- 7	11.2 Inspection of Water Additive Concentrate.	18A- 19
5.2 Toxicity and Environmental Tests.	18A- 8	Annex A Explanatory Material	18A- 19
5.3 Physical Properties.	18A- 8	Annex B Residual Fire Retardancy	18A- 29
5.4 Stability.	18A- 9	Annex C ICAL Radiant Panel Test for Exposure Protection	18A- 30
5.5 Uniform Corrosion.	18A- 9	Annex D Three-Dimensional Fire Test Apparatus	18A- 30
5.6 Intergranular Corrosion Test.	18A- 11	Annex E Informational References	18A- 35
5.7 Compatibility with Nonmetallic Materials.	18A- 12	Index	18A- 36
Chapter 6 Class A Fire Test Methods	18A- 12		
6.1 General.	18A- 12		
6.2 Wood Panel Fire Test.	18A- 12		
6.3 Wood Crib Fire Test.	18A- 12		
6.4 Deep-Seated Fire Test.	18A- 13		
Chapter 7 Class B Fire Test Methods	18A- 13		
7.1 General.	18A- 13		