

NFPA[®]

17A

Standard for
Wet Chemical
Extinguishing Systems

2021



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NFPA® 17A

Standard for

Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems

2021 Edition

This edition of NFPA 17A, *Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Dry and Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems. It was issued by the Standards Council on March 15, 2020, with an effective date of April 4, 2020, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 17A was approved as an American National Standard on April 4, 2020.

Origin and Development of NFPA 17A

On April 6, 1983, the Standards Council received a request to assign the subject of wet chemical extinguishing systems to the appropriate committee. Listed systems had been available for some time. After the Foam Committee declined the request, the Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems Committee, which had been activated in 1952, was asked to assume responsibility for the project. In May 1983, that committee voted to accept the assignment and requested that the Standards Council expand the Committee Scope to include the new topic. The Committee also requested that the new document be identified as NFPA 17A, *Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems*. A subcommittee met in June 1983 to develop the text. In November 1984, the Council approved a request to change the name of the Committee to the Committee on Dry and Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems. The first edition of NFPA 17A was in 1986; the 1990 edition was a partial revision of the 1986 edition.

The 1994 edition was rewritten to more clearly state the requirements and to separate the mandatory requirements from the nonmandatory recommendations to assist in making the document more usable, enforceable, and adoptable.

The 1998 edition of the standard was revised to clarify the requirements for protection of unclosable openings and equipment shutdown.

The changes to the 2002 edition consisted of an editorial reformatting of the standard to comply with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. Technical changes included clarification of requirements for fuel and power shutoff upon actuation of the system and rewriting the requirement for simultaneous systems operation.

Changes to the 2009 edition clarified inspection, maintenance, and service requirements and qualifications for service personnel.

Revisions to the 2013 edition of this standard clarified requirements for inspection and maintenance and added new requirements for installation acceptance.

For the 2017 edition, redundant language within NFPA 17A and NFPA 96 was eliminated for correlation purposes. Other sections were deleted for correlation purposes with NFPA 96. New annex material was added to identify the areas of protection for the discharge nozzles. Changes also were made requiring the authority having jurisdiction to approve used components in the system. A requirement was added for a placard to be placed near all Class K portable fire extinguishers indicating that the fire protection system must be activated before a portable fire extinguisher is used.