

NFPA®

600

Standard on
Facility Fire Brigades

2020



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NFPA® 600

Standard on

Facility Fire Brigades

2020 Edition

This edition of NFPA 600, *Standard on Facility Fire Brigades*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Loss Prevention Procedures and Practices. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 4, 2019, with an effective date of November 24, 2019, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 600 was approved as an American National Standard on November 24, 2019.

Origin and Development of NFPA 600

In 1902 NFPA adopted *Suggestions for Organizing Private Fire Departments* recommended by the Committee on Private Fire Department Regulations. In 1912 NFPA adopted two pamphlets, *Organization and Execution of Exit Drills* and *Organization and Drilling of Private Fire Brigades*, on the recommendation of the Committee on Private Fire Departments and Fire Drills. In 1924 the NFPA adopted *Suggestions for the Organization, Drilling and Equipment of Private Fire Brigades* on the recommendation of the Committee on Field Practice, and revisions were adopted in 1930, 1937, and 1949.

Jurisdiction for the publication was transferred in 1948 to the new Committee on Fire Brigades and Watchmen, and a revised edition was published in 1955. The guide was completely revised in 1967.

In 1969 the committee was reorganized as the Technical Committee on Loss Prevention Procedures and Practices, and the guide was reconfirmed in 1975. In 1981 a complete revision was accomplished, and a partial revision was made in the 1986 edition, as well as a redesignation from NFPA 27 to NFPA 600.

In 1992 the document was completely revised as a standard to provide a minimum level of occupational safety and health for industrial fire brigade members consistent with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The standard incorporated the concepts of advanced exterior fire fighting and site-specific hazards for the first time. These concepts were needed for industrial fire brigades to properly address the types of situations they encounter.

In 1996 the document was revised to include industrial fire departments, which were previously addressed in NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*. This reorganization assisted the authority having jurisdiction and owner/operators in determining the standard they must comply with and if they are in compliance. Other changes made the document more user friendly and better clarified the requirements of the standard.

Changes to the 2000 edition were mainly editorial or were provided for clarification. A noteworthy exception was the change in the number of industrial fire brigade members for interior structural fire fighting. Two industrial fire brigade members were now required to be available for rescue, whereas the previous edition required only one.

The 2005 edition incorporated revised definitions that correspond to preferred terms found in the Glossary of Terms. One of the definition changes incorporated a broader scope for the medical professionals who assess medical and physical fitness of fire brigade members. The term *qualified physician* was replaced by *qualified health care professional* to reflect actual practice.

The 2005 edition added references to the professional qualification standard, NFPA 1081, *Standard for Industrial Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications*, which was adopted after the effective date of the 2000 edition. The standard was also revised and reorganized in accordance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

For the 2015 edition, the standard was reorganized. The committee believed that the hazards to a fire brigade from interior structural and advanced exterior fire fighting were the same, including the potential for an IDLH environment, and therefore the consolidated requirements from the two separate chapters into one chapter applicable to both. In addition, the committee changed the title of the document from *Industrial Fire Brigades* to *Facility Fire Brigades*, recognizing that fire brigades exist beyond industrial settings. The word *facility* replaced *industrial* throughout the standard.

In the 2020 edition, several modifications were made to increase the scope of the standard and to provide the stakeholder with more concise language. In Chapter 1, new material was added for facility fire brigades that respond to offsite fire emergencies in conjunction with local fire departments.

The individual(s) designated by senior management is responsible for the organization, management, and nonemergency response functions of the facility fire brigade.

In Chapter 3, definitions were expanded to include specific details about potential time intervals and adding timing flexibility.

In Chapter 4, the language was modified in several areas to provide clarification on responsibilities. The language was edited to indicate who is in charge of an incident when an incipient fire occurs. The revised language also provides direction for designated representatives within an organizational statement. The role of the facility fire brigade leader was also better defined. These changes were made to avoid potential confusion about responsibilities during a fire emergency.

Mandatory language was added regarding the requirement to develop a site-specific risk management policy for employees who serve as facility fire brigade members. It was added to clarify the potential risks that are involved with responding to a fire emergency.

Section 4.11 was modified to reflect proper inventory management so that the items needed for a response would be readily available.

In Chapter 6, a requirement was added to ensure that protective thermal clothing and protective equipment are used and maintained according to the standards of NFPA 1851, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*. This requirement was added to ensure the proper protection of facility fire brigade members during a fire emergency.

Annex A was revised to cite federal regulations accurately and to match the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.156, “Fire Brigades.”