

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**

2020



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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

2020 Edition

This edition of 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*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire and Emergency Service Organization and Deployment-Career. It was issued by the Standards Council on April 28, 2019, with an effective date of May 18, 2019, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1710 was approved as an American National Standard on May 18, 2019.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1710

In 2001, the first edition of NFPA 1710 was issued. The development of that benchmark standard was the result of a considerable amount of hard work and tenacity by the technical committee members and the organizations they represented. That standard was the first organized approach to defining levels of service, deployment capabilities, and staffing levels for substantially career fire departments. Research work and empirical studies in North America were used by the committee as a basis for developing response times and resource capabilities for those services, as identified by the fire department.

Following the issuance of the first edition, the NFPA Standards Council asked the technical committee to begin the revision process for a 2004 edition of the standard. The committee formed several task groups to look at various aspects of the document. However, recognizing that the standard had not been fully field tested, the extent of the changes proposed were minimal with a cleanup of definitions, the addition of wording regarding equivalency in the annex, and clarification that the discussion on rate of fire propagation in the annex involved unsprinklered rooms.

The 2010 edition of NFPA 1710 standardized and refined terminology and definitions used in the document. Particular attention was paid to terminology for time frames for the various events that occur from event initiation to the end of the fire department's involvement with the incident. This included recognition that there is a time interval to initiate action or intervene at the end of travel time and before control and mitigation actually begin.

The requirements for time frames for alarm handling were revised to correspond to changes being made to NFPA 1221. The time allowance for turnout for fires and special operations was lengthened to 80 seconds, but the time measurement was defined to start at the beginning of the transmission of response data to the emergency response units or emergency response facilities. All times shown as both minutes and seconds were changed to seconds only because that is the level of precision in which the committee intends time to be measured. An application section was added in Chapter 1. The travel times for units responding on the first alarm were clarified to indicate the first unit must arrive within 4 minutes travel time and all units must arrive within 8 minutes travel time. The quadrennial report required to be provided to the AHJ in the previous edition was changed to an annual report.

The annex material related to the requirement stated for an initial full alarm assignment capability was moved to the body of the standard to clarify that the requirement applies to a structure fire in a typical 2000 ft² (186 m²), two-story single-family dwelling without basement and with no exposures. In addition, wording was added to require additional resources be deployed on fires in occupancies that present hazards greater than the two-story single-family dwelling. The community-wide risk management model that has been in an annex to NFPA 1710.