

**NFPA<sup>®</sup>**

# 18A

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

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**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.