

Standard Classifications for Incident Reporting and Fire Protection Data





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NFPA®901

Standard Classifications for

Incident Reporting and Fire Protection Data

2016 Edition

This edition of NFPA 901, *Standard Classifications for Incident Reporting and Fire Protection Data*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Reporting. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 14, 2015, with an effective date of December 4, 2015, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 901 was approved as an American National Standard on December 4, 2015.

Origin and Development of NFPA 901

As the objectives of fire defense management have narrowed from the control of conflagrations early in the 20th century toward the control of fires in rooms, the need for uniform information about fire incidents as well as for an effective method of collecting and using that information has become recognized.

In 1938, a fire reporting system prepared by NFPA was published by the International City Managers Association. This system served as a start toward the uniform reporting of fire incident information.

In 1951, the NFPA Committee on Fire Casualty Statistics was formed. The report of that committee was adopted as NFPA 3 in May 1953. In its introduction, that document contained the following statement: "The absence of accurate and detailed statistics on fire casualties has hindered attempts by educational and other means to reduce the number of deaths and injuries from fire."

In 1961, the NFPA Board of Directors, after two years of surveying the need, called a national conference on fire reporting. On the recommendation of that conference, an NFPA committee was formed in February 1963 to devise a uniform and useful system of fire reporting adaptable to the needs of the fire service in the United States and Canada. From 1963 to 1969, the committee strived to develop a uniform language for fire defense management and issued tentative documents as work progressed.

In 1969, the five tentative documents were combined and officially adopted as the first edition of NFPA 901, *Coding System for Fire Reporting*. The document was updated in 1971 with minor revisions. With the 1973 edition, the title was changed to *Uniform Coding for Fire Protection*, and data elements were added to report mobile property and details of fire casualties (deaths and injuries). By the time of the 1976 edition, the committee was getting feedback from persons using the data elements in reporting systems and was able to effect modifications to improve the understanding of the data elements. Data elements were also added to report structural fire defenses and their performance at the time of an incident.

In 1981, data elements were added to enhance the reporting of wildland fires, fire fighter casualties, and pre-hospital medical care administered. The 1986 edition introduced data elements for reporting hazardous material. Those data elements were expanded in the 1991 edition to a comprehensive set of hazardous materials data elements. The 1995 edition reorganized the document editorially to better group the data elements as they relate to each other. Discussion of how the data elements are intended to be used was added, and classifications within some of the data elements were revised to reflect changing needs when capturing or using data. Also, the title for the 1995 edition was changed to *Standard Classifications for Incident Reporting and Fire Protection Data*.

The 2001 edition added several new data elements and extensively revised others based on a detailed analysis by the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Information Council of the way that data are collected and used by fire departments. Some of the changes split data elements so that a data element focuses on a single question or issue rather than multiple issues, as had sometimes been done in the past. The changed technology available for data capture and storage no

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longer placed limitations on record size and data manipulation that had sometimes been obstacles in the past.

The 2006 edition was revised to comply with the Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents. Various sections were updated editorially for clarification.

The 2011 edition was a reconfirmation of the 2006 edition. There were no substantive edits or changes made to the document.

The 2016 edition features changes to align the language and information with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). An effort has been made to tie the two more closely together, and additional tables have been included in NFPA 901 to reflect changes in NFIRS.

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This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on standard methods of compiling fire experience data by the fire service. The main purposes of this Committee are to develop standard occupancy and cause classification for use by cities and states in the reporting of fires, to suggest other useful information that needs to be collected, and to develop standard forms for these purposes.

2016 Edition

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NFPA 901

Standard Classifications for

Incident Reporting and Fire Protection Data

2016 Edition

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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

A reference in brackets [] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another NFPA document. As an aid to the user, the complete title and edition of the source documents for extracts in mandatory sections of the document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in informational sections are given in Annex B. Extracted text may be edited for consistency and style and may include the revision of internal paragraph references and other references as appropriate. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the technical committee responsible for the source document.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex B.

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Scope. This document describes and defines data elements and classifications used by many fire departments in the United States and other countries to describe fire damage potential and experience during incidents. It does not provide guidelines for a reporting system or related forms.

1.2 Purpose. This document provides a common language for the collection of pre-incident information (such as fire defense features of a structure), fire and other emergency incident data, and post-incident damage assessments. It also defines numeric classifications for various data elements that describe fire protection and fire service information.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers, 2013 edition. NFPA 11, Standard for Low-, Medium-, and High-Expansion

Foam, 2015 edition.

NFPA 12, Standard on Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems, 2015 edition.

NFPA 12A, Standard on Halon 1301 Fire Extinguishing Systems, 2015 edition.

NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, 2016 edition.

NFPA 13D, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes, 2016 edition.

NFPA 13R, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Low-Rise Residential Occupancies, 2016 edition.

NFPA 14, Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems, 2016 edition.

NFPA 15, Standard for Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection, 2012 edition.

NFPA 17, Standard for Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems, 2013 edition.

NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code, 2015 edition.

NFPA 69, Standard on Explosion Prevention Systems, 2014 edition.

NFPA 72[®], *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, 2016 edition.

NFPA 80A, Recommended Practice for Protection of Buildings from Exterior Fire Exposures, 2012 edition.

NFPA 101[®], Life Safety Code[®], 2015 edition.

NFPA 220, Standard on Types of Building Construction, 2015 edition.

NFPA 750, Standard on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems, 2015 edition.

NFPA 5000[®], Building Construction and Safety Code[®], 2015 edition.

Fire Protection Guide to Hazardous Materials, 13th edition, 2010 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 ASTM Publications. ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

ASTM D323, Standard Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Reid Method), 2008 edition.

2.3.2 ICBO Publications. International Conference of Building Officials, 5360 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-2298.

Uniform Building Code[™], 1997 edition.

2.3.3 ICC Publications. International Code Council, 5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 600, Falls Church, VA 22041.

International Building Code, 2003 edition.