

## NFPA Best Practices for Fire Service Operations

A risk management system and the application of existing technology offer options to reduce fire service injuries. 7710 Insurance endorses the [local-level fire services best practices](#) as recommended by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) for minimizing firefighter injury and death. [NFPA codes and standards](#) identify a number of protocols and initiatives that can be taken at the local level to promote the safety and health of personnel.

- Departmental Policies
  - Commitment on the part of top fire service management to reduce injuries: *NFPA 1500™, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program, Section 4.3.*
  - Establishment of a safety committee headed by a safety officer to recommend a safety policy and the means of implementing it: *NFPA 1500, Section 4.5.*
  - Development and enforcement of policies on safe practices for drivers and passengers of fire apparatus: *NFPA 1500, Section 6.2 and 6.3.*
  - Development of procedures to ensure response of sufficient personnel for both firefighting and overhaul duties: *NFPA 1500, 4.1.2; 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; and NFPA 1720, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments).*
  
- Personnel Preparation
  - Training and education for emergency operations personnel: *NFPA 1500, Chapter 5.*
  - Provision of appropriate protective equipment and a mandate to use it: *NFPA 1500, 7.1 - 7.8.*
  - Implementation of regular medical examinations and a physical fitness program: *NFPA 1500, Section 10.1 through 10.3; NFPA 1582, Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments; and NFPA 1583, Standard on Health-Related Fitness Programs for Fire Department Members).*
  - Development and enforcement of a program on the use and maintenance of SCBA: *NFPA 1500, Section 7.9 through 7.14.*
  - Standard for Pre-Incident Planning, Chapter 4, Pre-Incident Planning Process: *NFPA 1620, Chapter 5, Physical & Site Considerations; Chapter 7, Water Supplies & Fire Protection Systems; Chapter 8, Special Hazards.*
  - Standard on the Rehabilitation Process for Members During Emergency Operations and Training Exercises: *NFPA 1584, Chapter 4, Preparedness, and Chapter 6, Incident Scene and Training Rehabilitation.*
  - Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications: *NFPA 1002, Section 4.8, The Risk Management Process.*
  
- Community Education
  - Implementation of programs for the installation of private fire protection systems so fires are discovered at an earlier stage, exposing firefighters to a less hostile environment: *NFPA 1, Fire Code and NFPA 101®, Life Safety Code®.*
  - Increased efforts in the area of fire safety education programs so citizens are aware of measures to prevent fires and correct reactions to a fire situation: *NFPA 1201, Standard for Providing Fire and Emergency Services to the Public, Chapter 6.*
  
- Management Systems
  - Adoption and implementation of an incident management system: *NFPA 1500, Section 8.1 and NFPA 1561, Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System and Command Safety.*
  - Development and implementation of an investigation procedure that includes all accidents, near misses, injuries, fatalities, occupational illnesses, and exposures involving members: *NFPA 1500, 4.4.4. and 4.4.5.*