

NFPA 1710 FACT SHEET

NFPA 1710 is a standard that sets minimum criteria for the effectiveness and efficiency of emergency operations to protect the safety of the Public and Fire Department employees.

NFPA 1710 Background:

In 2001, after 10 years of research and debate, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) issued the standard NFPA 1710. The standard sets minimum criteria for the staffing of fire fighter crews, and how they will respond and operate at emergency scenes.

These guidelines were developed for your safety, fire fighter safety, and the safety of your property.

* The National Fire Protection Association is:

- An international organization that establishes organizational guidelines that are nationally recognized and followed by fire departments.

- Comprised of more than 80 national trade and professional organizations, which provide input towards development of fire industry guidelines.

NFPA 1710 Requirements:

Fire Fighters will respond with a minimum of 4 personnel on each apparatus.

Fire Fighters will arrive at the emergency scene within 4 minutes of the dispatch center receiving the call.

The correct number of fully staffed and strategically located fire stations must exist to accomplish the standard.

Benefits of Compliance:

NFPA 1710 Is an Insurance Policy for the Community and its Businesses.

NFPA 1710 offers insurance for the local economy by guaranteeing the community and its businesses that Fire and Emergency Medical Services will respond promptly and appropriately in an emergency.

Even a moderate-sized fire can hurt the community's tax base. When businesses close, employees don't get paid. They can't put money back into the community, and may go from being taxpayers to public support recipients. The business can't pay taxes because it is not selling its goods and services.

A fire that devastates a building will cause the company to consider whether it should reopen. The company may relocate to another city or state, meaning a permanent loss to the workforce and tax base.

NFPA 1710 Enhances Public Safety.

By responding quickly to a fire, we keep a small incident small.

When responses take more than a few minutes, losses escalate substantially, resulting in a greater loss of life and property.

Communities with good records of emergency response times enhance the quality of life for current residents, and may help attract new residents and businesses.

Supports our nation's Homeland Security Plan.

NFPA 1710 Will Save Lives.

Firefighting is dangerous work.

NFPA 1710 applies the documented and proven science of fire behavior and emergency medicine to the basic resources required for effective fire department deployment.

Allows a community to determine if the resources allocated for all emergencies are sufficient to control the incident and protect lives and property.

NFPA 1710 Protects the Community Against Liability.

Courts often rely upon NFPA Standards to determine the "industry standard" for fire protection and safety measures. NFPA doctrines are most frequently found in common law negligence claims.

NFPA 1710 could be highly relevant to the question of whether a jurisdiction has negligently failed to provide adequate fire or emergency medical protection to an individual harmed in a fire or medical emergency.

Jurisdictions assume some additional legal risk by failing to abide by NFPA 1710, even where it has failed to adopt the standard.