



KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES IN NFPA 1710

The minimum requirements for provision of emergency services by career fire departments can be found in 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*.

NFPA 1710 addresses the structure and operation of organizations providing such services, which include fire suppression and other assigned emergency response responsibilities such as EMS and special operations.

The requirements intend to provide effective, efficient, and safe protective services to help prevent fires, reduce risk to lives and property, deal with incidents that occur, and help prepare for anticipated incidents.

The requirements are listed in NFPA 1710 for fire department service deployment based on the type of occupancy, along with the appropriate response staffing levels for each. The minimum staffing level for each occupancy is listed below. For the full breakdown of staffing requirements by position, refer to the subsections specific to each occupancy in 5.2.4.

KEY REQUIREMENTS



Occupancy Type: Single-Family Dwelling
Deployment: Minimum of 16 members or 17 if aerial device is used

The initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical 2000 ft² (186 m²), two-story, single-family dwelling without a basement and with no exposures must provide for a minimum of 16 members (17 if an aerial device is used).



Occupancy Type: Open-Air Strip Mall
Deployment: Minimum of 27 members or 28 if aerial device is used

The initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical open-air strip shopping center ranging from 13,000 ft² to 196,000 ft² (1203 m² to 18,209 m²) in size must provide for a minimum of 27 members (28 if an aerial device is used).



Occupancy Type: Garden-Style Apartment
Deployment: Minimum of 27 members or 28 if aerial device is used

The initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical 1200 ft² (111 m²) apartment within a three-story, garden-style apartment building must provide for a minimum of 27 members (28 if an aerial device is used).



Occupancy Type: High-Rise
Deployment: Minimum of 42 members or 43 if building is equipped with fire pump

The initial full alarm assignment to a fire in a building with the highest floor greater than 75 ft (23 m) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access must provide for a minimum of 42 members (43 if the building is equipped with a fire pump).



KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES IN NFPA 1710 *CONTINUED*

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Fire departments that respond to fires in occupancies that present hazards greater than those found in 5.2.4 must deploy additional resources on the initial alarm as described in 5.2.4.6.

Even though fireground staffing levels have changed, NFPA 1710 continues to require that engine companies be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty members, as stated in 5.2.3. In addition, 5.2.2.2.1 requires that the fire department identify minimum company staffing levels as necessary to meet the deployment criteria required in 5.2.4 to ensure that a sufficient number of members are assigned, on duty, and available to safely and effectively respond with each company.

Additional changes to the 2020 edition of the standard include an update to the definition for *career fire department* and a clarification of how to determine if the department would fall under either NFPA 1710 or 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*.

Several new definitions relating to geographic areas based on population density have been added and the number of responders needed based on the type of incident and tasks to accomplish has been included. New requirements have been added for mobile water supply tankers/tenders and deployment and training of incident safety officers. Also, material on wildland fire suppression has been expanded.

RESPONSE OBJECTIVES

Documenting the benchmarks and response objectives that make up NFPA 1710 is crucial to capturing and tracking data that would be helpful in ensuring the necessary allocation of resources.

| Benchmarks | Response Objectives |
|--|---|
| Alarm answer | 15 sec 95% of the time or 40 sec 99% of the time |
| Alarm processing | 64 sec 95% of the time or 106 sec 99% of the time |
| Turnout - Fire | 80 sec |
| Turnout - EMS | 60 sec |
| First-due engine | 240 sec (4 min) 90% of the time |
| Second-due engine | 360 sec (6 min) 90% of the time |
| Initial full alarm - Low/ medium hazard | 480 sec (8 min) 90% of the time |
| Initial full alarm - High hazard | 610 sec (10 min 10 sec) 90% of the time |

Learn More

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