

NFPA 1720 and 1911 Standards: 2020 Edition

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

Purpose: “The purpose of this standard is to specify the minimum criteria addressing the effectiveness and efficiency of the volunteer and combination public fire suppression operations, emergency medical service, and special operations delivery in protecting the citizens of the jurisdiction.”

Chapter 4.3 Staffing and Deployment

- 4.3.2: “Table 4.3.2 shall be used by the AHJ [Authority Having Jurisdiction] to determine staffing and response time objectives for structural firefighting, based on a low-hazard occupancy such as a 2000 ft² (186 m²), two-story, single-family home without basement and exposures and the percentage accomplishment of those objectives for reporting purposes as required in 4.4.2.

Δ Table 4.3.2 Staffing and Response Time

Demand Zone ^a	Demographics	Minimum Staff to Respond ^b	Response Time (minutes) ^c	Meets Objective (%)
Urban area	>1000 people/mi ² (2.6 km ²)	15	9	90
Suburban area	500–1000 people/mi ² (2.6 km ²)	10	10	80
Rural area	<500 people/mi ² (2.6 km ²)	6	14	80
Remote area	Travel distance ≥ 8 mi (12.87 km)	4	Directly dependent on travel distance	90
Special risks	Determined by AHJ	Determined by AHJ based on risk	Determined by AHJ	90

^aA jurisdiction can have more than one demand zone.

^bMinimum staffing includes members responding from the AHJ's department and automatic aid

^cResponse time begins upon completion of the dispatch notification and ends at the time interval shown in the table.

NFPA 1911: Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles

Annex D: Guidelines for First-Line and Reserve Fire Apparatus

Purpose: “The annex is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only.”

- D.1 General: “It is recommended that apparatus more than 15 years old that have been properly maintained and that are still in service-able condition be placed in reserve status; be upgraded in accordance with NFPA 1912; and incorporate as many features as possible of the current fire apparatus standard.”
- D.1 General: “Apparatus that are not manufactured to the applicable NFPA fire apparatus standards or that are over 25 years old should be replaced.”

Questions to Consider

1. What should the minimum standards be for fire suppression staffing, response, and fire apparatus replacement?
2. What should the minimum standards be for EMS staffing and response?
3. What would each district need in order to meet those standards?