

The background of the slide features a dramatic scene of firefighters in silhouette, working against a large fire. The fire is bright yellow and orange, with thick smoke rising. The firefighters are positioned in the foreground, their forms dark against the intense light of the flames. One firefighter on the right is holding a hose, which extends across the frame. The overall atmosphere is one of bravery and emergency response.

Houston Fire Department Organization & Deployment

Public Safety Committee Presentation

**Fire Chief Garrison
Executive Assistant Chief Mann**

FIRE BASED EMS

The fire department is geographically deployed throughout the community to minimize response times. The most expensive parts of the EMS system – personnel, apparatus, and facilities – are already being paid for.

Response time is the absolute priority for medical emergencies. Firefighters are in the best position to respond quickly and provide vital services.

Of the 200 most populated communities, 97 percent have the fire service delivering pre-hospital emergency medical service response. Additionally, the fire service provides critical advanced life support (ALS) response and care in 90 percent of the 30 most populated United States cities and counties.

FIRE BASED EMS

The ride in the ambulance for the sick or injured person is only part of the system. A comprehensive EMS system includes rapid response, intervention, stabilization, and then transportation to a definitive care facility, if needed.

Treatment by firefighters begins immediately, even if the patient is trapped in a building that's on fire, pinned in a car crash, or in a collapsed structure.

The provision of EMS response, treatment, and transportation by firefighters is seamless. One agency is responsible for the continuity of patient care and provides EMS within an "all-hazards" response model.

FIRE BASED EMS

Firefighters are long-term workers in their communities. Most fire departments have very low turnover rates. Firefighters know about the needs in their communities...and firefighters are highly experienced emergency medical care providers.



NFPA 1710

SCOPE

**Standards for the Organization and Deployment of Fire
Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical
Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by
Career Fire Departments**

2010 Edition

**Provides a template for developing an implementation
plan on the standard.**

**Provides the body politic & citizens a true picture of
risks to their community and the fire department's
capabilities to respond to and manage those risks.**

NFPA 1710

PURPOSE

To specify the minimum criteria addressing the effectiveness & efficiency of:

Fire Suppression Operations

Emergency Medical Services

Special Operations Delivery

in protecting citizens and the health and safety of employees.

NFPA 1710 STAFFING

**Staffing has been determined through task analysis.
(The actual work being performed)**

**Fire Companies SHALL be staffed with a minimum of
four on-duty personnel.**

***Jurisdictions w/ tactical hazards, high-hazards
occupancies, high incident frequencies, geographical
restrictions SHALL be staffed w/ a minimum of five or
six on-duty personnel.**

NFPA 1710

STRATEGIC & TACTICAL OBJECTIVES

The initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical 2000sqft, 2-story dwelling:

1. Establish incident command
2. Uninterrupted water supply
3. Effective water application- two hand lines
4. One support person for each attack
5. One search and rescue team
6. Ladders/ventilation team
7. Aerial device and operator
8. IRIC team

NFPA 1710

CAPABILITIES

Suppression Capability = how much firefighting power can be put into action.

An early, aggressive, and offensive primary interior attack on a working fire, where feasible, is usually the most effective strategy to reduce loss of lives and property damage.

Room of origin flashes over at 3-5 minutes, and extension occurs.

The ability of adequate fire suppression forces to greatly influence the outcome of a structure fire in UNDENIABLE and PREDICTABLE.

COMMISSION ON FIRE ACCREDITATION INTERNATIONAL

The Houston Fire Department is the largest accredited municipal fire department in the world.

1. What this means:

1. Accreditation is a comprehensive self-assessment and evaluation model that enables organizations to examine past, current, and future service levels and internal performance and compare them to industry best practices. This process leads to improved service.
2. This process allows fire service organizations to:
 1. Determine community risk and safety needs and develop community-specific Standards of Cover
 2. Evaluate performance of the department
 3. Establish a method for achieving continuous organizational improvement.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EXCELLENCE

- ❑ **The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) promotes the continuous quality improvement of fire and emergency service agencies that serve communities worldwide by providing training and career resource information.**
- ❑ **CPSE supports and encourages agencies and personnel to meet international performance standards through various programs and the work of two commissions: the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and the Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC).**
- ❑ **CPSE serves as the governing body for the organizations that offer accreditation, education, and credentialing services to first responder and fire service industry professionals and agencies.**

ISO

INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE

The Houston Fire Department has an ISO Public Protection Classification rating of 1.

1. **What this means:**
 1. ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPCTM) Service gauges the fire protection capability of a local fire department to respond to structure fires.
 2. They assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents the best public protection, and Class 10 indicates no recognized protection.
 3. By classifying a community's ability to suppress fires, ISO provides crucial information for understanding the entire landscape of risk associated with a specific property. ISO has extensive information on more than 47,000 fire-response jurisdictions.

ISO

ISO uses a Fire Protection Rating Schedule (FPRS) to determine the Public Protection Classification.

- 1. The FPRS employs nationally accepted standards developed by such organizations as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International.**
- 2. The PPC program always provides a useful benchmark that helps fire departments and other public officials measure the effectiveness of their efforts – and plan improvements.**
- 3. The FPRS considers three main areas of a community's fire suppression system: emergency communications, fire department (including operational considerations), and water supply.**
- 4. In addition, it includes a Community Risk Reduction section that recognizes community efforts to reduce losses through fire prevention, public fire safety education, and fire investigation.**