

Fire Chief Source Guide



Access the Industry's most complete Manufacturer & Supplier Directory



EVERY DEPARTMENT, EVERY LEADER

- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [advanced search](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [RSS](#)

- [Apparatus](#)
 - [Training](#)
 - [Leadership](#)
 - [Health & Safety](#)
 - [Suppression](#)
 - [Technology](#)
 - [Hazmat](#)
 - [EMS](#)
 - [Rescue](#)
- [Station Design](#)

advertisement



Friday, September 25, 2009

NFPA Ambulance Standards Committee Moves Forward

Sep 24, 2009 11:40 AM

By Mary Rose Roberts

The [National Fire Protection Association](#) will meet this autumn to continue its work on developing ambulance standards for specifying and purchasing, said Larry Stewart, fire service specialist in the NFPA's public fire protection division. Stewart said the impetus for creating a standard was to set minimum requirements for ambulance safety and operation.

"The NFPA took on writing a standard because firefighters knew there were national fire standards to apply to apparatus," Stewart said. "But they didn't apply to ambulances, which didn't need to meet the same level of performance as a fire engine."

Committee chair David Fischler said the new NFPA standard will provide guidelines on the development of a safer vehicle not only for the patients but also for the operators and paramedics onboard.

"Over the last few years, we've seen accidents in which the providers as well as the patients have been killed or seriously injured," Fischler said. "The intent of the committee is to look at what currently exists out there and come up with a standard that will provide a safer ambulance for everyone concerned."

Standards will focus strictly on construction and operation of the vehicle, such as how the mechanical components work on the vehicle, how it is constructed and more. The development of a standard will mimic what has been previously done for fire apparatus, Stewart said.

"They looked at an existing NFPA 1901 for automotive fire apparatus and how they assembled the chapters," Stewart said. "So right now, we are in the infant steps of tackling the work."

advertisement

Most Popular Articles

- [Fire Departments Slow to Adopt NIMS](#)
- [Mutual Aid: Shirt-Color Blind](#)
- [Program Aims to Typify Volunteer Stations](#)
- [Mutual Aid: Station Grant Update](#)
- [EMT Fired After Posting Murder Victim Photo](#)



Recent Comments

- [Lexie](#) What about cases for negligent hiring? It is still remote but I have yet to find a case where the court discusses whether it is not a direct cause for the original action of the firefighter.

In This Issue

- Are We There Yet?
- Career Chief of the Year: A Good Example
- Volunteer Chief of the Year: The Listening Artist

More from This Issue

advertisement

with any public infrastructure title!



SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY Battling Obesity

PENTON

CLICK for info on Public Infrastructure publications

NFPA standards will set what benchmarks an ambulance must meet. Stewart said they will look at occupancy safety, vehicle stability, electrical requirements for power, lighting systems for warnings, audible systems, and patient-care areas arrangement for caregiver of paramedic "to make sure if the vehicle is in an accident everyone onboard are in the best position possible so that they are not going to be compromised," he said.

The next meeting is yet to be scheduled but is expected to take place in the next few months. The committee will then be divided into the various task groups that write each chapter. Meetings will be held until the NFPA has a working draft of a document, Stewart said. He noted committee members have the existing KKK ambulance standards published through the U.S. General Services Administration.

"The federal government is looking for someone else to take over writing the specifications for ambulances," Stewart said. "The KKK document was never meant to be a standard; it was really a federal specification used by the federal government to buy ambulances. It never really had performance requirements, as far as how the vehicle had to perform."

Chiefs shouldn't wait for the standards to make needed purchasing decisions, Stewart said.

"I doubt the industry will want to prolong distributing ambulance and don't think those who need ambulances should wait because our process is going to take two years before we have a product available as a standard."

There will be no mandate to adopt the voluntary standards, Stewart said.

"If a [fire] company is going to buy an ambulance, as part of the purchasing agreement they would refer to a recognized national standard—the KKK is now that standard," he said. "Once the NFPA becomes available then that will be the default or the recognized national standard."

Acceptable Use Policy
 blog comments powered by Disqus

[SAVE THIS](#)
[EMAIL THIS](#)
[PRINT THIS](#)
[MOST POPULAR](#)

[RSS](#)
[MY YAHOO!](#)
[newsgator](#)
[Bloglines](#)

Ads by Google

Download nfpa 720
 Download nfpa 720 National Fire Protection Standards
webstore.ansi.org

Extinguisher Training
 No Mess Extinguisher Training Rechargeable Training Extinguishers
www.BullExSafety.com

EMS Vehicle Inverter
 EMS / Ambulance Mobile Power Source Includes Hospital-Grade AC Plug.
tripplite.com/EMS.inverters

HEADLINES BY

Fireman's Rule doesn't necessarily bar all suits · 4 days ago

florida keys vacation rentals "If people are upset at the lack of services, don't re-elect those officials." this is the rule is to be applied to the politics of the world.
[Florida Bans Crash Fees - FIRE CHIEF article · 4 days ago](#)

Name Congratulations, Bruce. You've just become an accessory to the smoke and mirrors used by the DCFD to propagate its EMS improvements.
[D.C. Fire bounces back from bottom-tier rating - FIRE CHIEF article · 1 week ago](#)

Powered by Disqus

advertisement



Click to find out more.

NEBULUS
 Emergency Protection Device

Resource Center

[Events](#)
[Advertise](#)
[JobZone](#)
[RSS](#)

Most Recent Story

McLeod Elected FDSOA Chairman

9/24/2009

Commentary

Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid is a blog of news and views from FIRE CHIEF staff and industry experts — a virtual conversation about the issues important to you as a fire service leader.

Special Reports



In Service provides information on fleet management, apparatus specifying and maintenance. Keep abreast of new trends and changes to emergency vehicle apparatus.

Station Style



Station Style focuses on the architectural design and needs of fire and emergency stations today. See the latest in design trends and learn about the Fire Station Design Awards.

Fire Chief TV



Featured Video
Personal Rescue System from Lion Apparel

[More Videos](#)

Most Popular Articles From WILDFIRE

- [Black Saturday in Victoria, Australia](#)
- [Shelter of Last Resort](#)
- [Management Not Leadership](#)
- [Wilderness First Responder Courses Offer EMT Skills for the Outdoors](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Browse E-Newsletters

Current Subscribe	Current Archive Subscribe	Current Subscribe	Current Subscribe	Current Subscribe	Current Subscribe