



RESEARCH FOUNDATION

RESEARCH FOR THE NFPA MISSION

PROJECT SUMMARY

Review of Use of Risk Terminology in NFPA Codes and Standards

12 April 2019

Background: The concept of “risk analysis” is often ambiguously referenced and may vary significantly among the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) codes and standards. A review of how the various NFPA codes and standards define and use the term risk analysis or similar terms will help clarify the concept, reveal contradictions in the way that the concept is defined and used, and potentially assist in moving towards consistency across codes and standards.

Research Goal: The goal of this project is to review and document the various ways that NFPA codes and standards reference the concept of “risk analysis,” and closely related terms for consideration by NFPA technical committees.

Project Tasks: This study involves the following tasks:

Task 1: NFPA codes and standards, handbooks, and supporting annexes will be reviewed for references to risk analysis and closely related terms and concepts (e.g., risk assessment, hazard analysis, vulnerability assessment, etc.).

Task 2: Document and catalogue the way in which the risk terms are defined (if any), along with any contextual information that clarifies how the term is applied. Develop a brief abstract for each of the references to risk terminology. Develop an interim report with the abstracts.

Task 3: Analyze the risk term references found and classify into categories and develop a final report that includes the findings from all tasks.

Implementation: This research program will be conducted under the auspices of the Research Foundation in accordance with Foundation Policies and will be guided by a Project Technical Panel who will provide input to the project, review periodic reports of progress and research results, and review the final project report.

Schedule: A final report will be issued in fall of 2019.

About us:

About the Fire Protection Research Foundation

The [Fire Protection Research Foundation](#) plans, manages, and communicates research on a broad range of fire safety issues in collaboration with scientists and laboratories around the world. The Foundation is an affiliate of NFPA.



About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. [All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free.](#) NFPA's [membership](#) totals more than 65,000 individuals around the world.

