

Department of Energy  
Office of Nuclear and Facility Safety Policy  
DOE O 420.1A Technical Position  
OTP 2002-2

Issue:

This technical position clarifies the application of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1710, *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Department*, to DOE facilities, sites, and activities.

Background:

DOE Sites maintain fire department organizations, which provide fire prevention, fire suppression operations, emergency medical operations, hazardous material operations and other special operations as part of an overall fire protection and emergency response organization. Paragraph 4.2.1, item 7, of DOE O 420.1A specifies requirements for the development of a Baseline Needs Assessment (BNA) for such organizations to ensure adequate resources are available to respond to fire and other emergencies.

In 2001 the NFPA published NFPA 1710, a new standard addressing the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency service providers. NFPA 1710 is applicable to sites that maintain a fire department organization to comply with Paragraph 4.2.1 of DOE Order (O) 420.1A, *Facility Safety*. The major requirements of NFPA 1710 are summarized as follows:

- First-unit response time\* - 4 minutes (90% of the time)
- Initial Full Assignment response time\*\* - 8 minutes (90% of the time)
- First-unit staffing (upon arrival) - 4 minimum
- Assignment staffing - 14/15
- Initial attack time - Not Applicable
- Annual evaluation - Required
- Quadrennial report - Required

\*Does not include 60-second turnout time or PSAP/911 call answer time.

\*\*BLS response time is 4 minutes; ALS response time is 8 minutes.

Technical Position:

DOE O 420.1A provides the core set of requirements necessary to establish and maintain a comprehensive fire and related hazards program for DOE facilities, sites, and activities. An essential element of compliance with DOE O 420.1A is adherence to the applicable codes and standards of the NFPA. Consequently, DOE expects its contractors to comply with the applicable requirements of NFPA 1710.

Many of the elements of NFPA 1710 can be met through current programs and procedures. For example, NFPA 1710 requires that an evaluation be performed on fire department effectiveness in meeting certain objectives, such as minimum response times and deployment staffing. Similarly, DOE 420.1A requires contractors to develop a BNA, which establishes the minimum required capabilities of site fire fighting forces, including:

- Minimum staffing,
- Apparatus,
- Facilities,
- Equipment,

