

# MATRIX TO DETERMINE YOUR PRESENT POSITION IN MEETING

## N.F.P.A. 1720

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



Completing this self-review is simple and straightforward. In order to help ensure accuracy, it is advisable to utilize the actual NFPA 1720 document in conjunction with the self-review. The IAFC-VCOS has developed this document to assist departments in understanding and initiating the review process to determine key areas requiring action by the fire department. Many of these components can be achieved in a variety of ways. It is up to each agency to determine how achievement is measured. Simply indicating compliance with this document does not validate compliance. Appropriate support detail must be collected and maintained, and assurance made that any related references within the standard are complied with.

This matrix is not intended to replace or assure compliance with NFPA 1720, the Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments (2001 Edition). A copy of the entire NFPA 1720 Standard, including the appendices and related introductory detail, can be obtained from the

**National Fire Protection Association  
1 Batterymarch Park  
P.O. Box 9101  
Quincy, MA 02269-9101**

Additional NFPA Standards Referenced:

NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Health and Safety      NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials  
NFPA 1561 Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management Systems      NFPA 1221 Public Fire Service Communications  
NFPA 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs  
NFPA 1620 Recommended Practice for Pre-Incident Planning

Thank you to Chief John Leahy of the IAFC/VCOS Board for the assembly of this assistance matrix.  
2001, IAFC/VCOS

**Fire Service Organization** \_\_\_\_\_ **Career Staff** \_\_\_\_\_ **Volunteer Staff** \_\_\_\_\_

**Services Provided:** **Structural** \_\_ **EMS** \_\_ **Rescue** \_\_ **H/M** \_\_ **Marine** \_\_ **Technical Rescue** \_\_ **Extrication** \_\_  
**Public Assist** \_\_ **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

### Self-Assessment Matrix

|         | <b>NFPA 1720 Component</b>  | <b>Currently Meet</b> | <b>Partially Meet</b> | <b>Fail to Meet</b> |
|---------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 4.1     | Suppression Operations, adequate personnel, equipment, sufficient/efficient/effective resources   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.1.1   | Organization, Operations, Deployment, Written R&R, SOPs, Orders   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.1.2   | Develop Community Risk Management Plan (Storage, Use & Transportation of Hazardous Materials)   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.1.3   | Procedures clearly state succession of command responsibility   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.1.4   | Organized into company units on response teams and have appropriate apparatus and equipment   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.1.5   | Identify minimum staffing required for safe and efficient operations  |                       | People 2- 3- 4        |                     |
| 4.1.6   | Maintain standard reports for responses; including location, nature of incident and operations performed, members responding                      |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.1.7   | Mutual aid response and agreements; predetermined locations, regulate dispatch of companies, response groups, command to fire and other responses |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.1.8   | Number and type of units assigned to respond by risk analysis and pre-fire plans  |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.1   | Incident Commander Assignments  |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.1.1 | Assumption & Identification communicated to all responding units  |                       |                       |                     |

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|-----------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 4.2.1.2   | Incident command shall be responsible for coordination and direction of all activities   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.1.3   | Incident commander ensures accountability system is used immediately   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.1.4   | Company officer/crew leader aware of identity, location, and activity of every member assigned   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.1.5   | Each member of a company aware of the identity of the company officer/crew leader  |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.1.6   | Orders to members, verbal at incident transmitted through company officer/crew leader  |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.2.1   | Upon assembling necessary resources, shall have the capability to safely initiate attack within 2 minutes, 90% of the time   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.2.2   | Initial attack operations shall be organized that at least 4 members are assembled before an interior attack is made   |                       | People 1- 2- 3- 4     |                     |
| 4.2.2.2.1 | Hazardous materials incidents shall have two (2) people work as a team   |                       | 1 person              |                     |
| 4.2.2.2.2 | Outside hazardous materials area, two (2) people present for assistance on rescue, one person may be engaged in other activities   |                       | 1 person              |                     |
| 4.2.2.2.3 | No assignment can be made if abandoning the critical tasks of rescue   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.2.3   | Initial attack can occur if life-threatening situation is imminent   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.2.2.4   | Fire Department has capability for sustained operations, suppression, search, rescue, forcible entry, ventilation, preservation of property, accountability, rapid intervention team, support activities |                       |                       |                     |

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|---------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 4.3.1   | Mutual aid, automatic aid, fire protection agreements in writing and liability issues, injury, death, retirement, cost, and authorization for support services                             |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.3.2   | Procedures for training for personnel within all agreements for response or support  |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.3.3   | Companies responding to mutual aid incidents shall be equipped with communications equipment to communicate with various officers  |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.4.1   | EMS capability (people, equipment, resources) initially on arrival; automatic or mutual aid  |                       | People 1- 2- 3- 4     |                     |
| 4.4.1.1 | Do you deliver emergency medical services?   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.4.1.2 | Maintain clear document of rule, responsibilities, function and objectives for delivering EMS  |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.4.2   | Basic treatment levels within system<br>- First Responder<br>- Basic Life Support<br>- Advanced Life Support   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.4.3.1 | Five Basic Functions<br>1. ___ First Responder with AED<br>2. ___ Basic Life Support<br>3. ___ ALS Response<br>4. ___ Patient Transport<br>5. ___ Assurance of Response Quality Management |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.4.3.2 | Department shall be involved in any or all functions identified in 4.4.3.1 through 4.4.3.1.5   |                       |                       |                     |

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|---------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 4.5.1   | Fire Department has a quality management program   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.5.2   | All responders and basic life support programs are reviewed and documented   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.5.3   | Advance Life Support systems have named Medical Director with responsibility to oversee and ensure quality medical care within state law   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.5.4   | Advanced Life Support system provides immediate communication with supervisor and medical oversight  |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.6.1   | Special Operations consist of:<br>___ sufficient people<br>___ equipment<br>___ resources<br>initial deployment and subsequent deployments |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.6.1.1 | Involved in special operations response  |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.6.2   | Have adopted plan for operations response specifying role and responsibilities for hazardous materials and trained to NFPA 472             |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.6.3   | All members who respond beyond first responder level for hazardous materials are trained to NFPA 472                                       |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.6.4   | Fire Department shall have capacity to implement rapid intervention crew during all special operations to meet NFPA 1500                   |                       |                       |                     |
| 4.6.5   | If higher level emergency response is needed beyond department, department has determined availability and capability of other responses   |                       |                       |                     |
| 5.1     | Health and Safety provided in accordance with NFPA 1500  |                       |                       |                     |

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|---------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 5.2.1   | Incident Management System provided in accordance with NFPA 1561   |                       |                       |                     |
| 5.2.2   | Use of Incident Command designed for Structures, Wildland, Hazardous Materials, EMS and other type incidents           |                       |                       |                     |
| 5.3     | Department has training program for competency; effective, efficient and safe  |                       |                       |                     |
| 5.4.1   | Department has reliable communication system to facilitate prompt delivery of suppression, EMS, and special operations |                       |                       |                     |
| 5.4.2   | All communication facilities, equipment, staffing, and operating procedures comply with NFPA 1221                      |                       |                       |                     |
| 5.4.3   | Radio communications have standard protocols and terminology   |                       |                       |                     |
| 5.4.3.1 | Radio terminology is in compliance with NFPA 1561  |                       |                       |                     |
| 5.5     | Department does pre-incident planning and especially for target hazards  |                       |                       |                     |