

**National Park Service  
Structural Fire Program  
RM-58 Structural Fire Management**



**April 2025**

### Reference Manual Development Process:

The development of this reference manual was completed over a one-year period with the incorporated comments and input from all programs, park units and regional offices. Over 800 comments and multiple reviews were completed for this process. Specific credit to the National Structure Fire Program Office and the Structural Fire Leadership council for the dedicated focus needed to complete this effort.

*The information within this document incorporates and supersedes all previous policies and policy memorandums.* It supports industry standards and the adoption of the International Fire Code, updates to existing NFPA codes and standards, and National Park Service policy. The feedback provided helped to create a functional manual for the National Parks Service. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) have been developed to better address operational related functions. These functions are related to engine company management, fire extinguishers, International Code Council approval process, and others. The SOPs are updated by the National Structural Fire Program Office. This document and associated SOPs have been solicitor and tort reviewed by the Department of the Interior Office of the Solicitor. This document will be under regular review to ensure compliance with industry standards and changes in the Fire Code. This document has been reviewed and updated for 508 compliance. Future updates will be completed and approved by chapter as needed, following a similar process.

Your input and assistance in the creation of this manual has been greatly appreciated.

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## Acronyms

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<b>ADVRP</b>	associate director of visitor and resource protection
<b>AHJ</b>	authority having jurisdiction
<b>CO</b>	carbon monoxide
<b>DFAM</b>	Division of Fire and Aviation Management
<b>DO-58</b>	Director's Order 58
<b>EICC</b>	Emergency Incident Coordination Center
<b>ECP</b>	engine company park
<b>FADO</b>	fire apparatus driver/operator
<b>FCO</b>	fire code official
<b>IBC</b>	International Building Code
<b>ICC</b>	International Code Council
<b>IDLH</b>	immediately dangerous to life or health
<b>IDT</b>	interdisciplinary team
<b>IEBC</b>	International Existing Building Code
<b>IFC</b>	International Fire Code
<b>IRC</b>	International Residential Code
<b>ITM</b>	inspection, testing, and maintenance
<b>LEO</b>	law enforcement officer
<b>NFPA</b>	National Fire Protection Association
<b>NICET</b>	National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies
<b>NPS-FC</b>	National Park Service structural fire chief
<b>PAI</b>	permit authorizing individual
<b>PAT</b>	physical ability test
<b>PEL</b>	permissible exposure limit
<b>PPE</b>	personal protective equipment
<b>PSFC</b>	park structural fire coordinator
<b>PSFPM</b>	park structural fire program manager
<b>RCR</b>	regional chief ranger
<b>RFPS</b>	regional fire protection specialist
<b>RM-58</b>	Reference Manual 58
<b>RSFM</b>	regional structural fire marshal
<b>SFMP</b>	structural fire management plan
<b>SF-OPM</b>	structural fire operations program manager
<b>SF-TPM</b>	structural fire training program manager
<b>SME</b>	subject matter expert
<b>WASO</b>	Washington Support Office
<b>WFF</b>	wildland firefighter

## Definitions

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**Acquired Prop** - A piece of equipment such as an automobile that was not designed for burning though it is used for live fire training evolutions.

**Addition** - An extension or increase in floor area, number of stories, or height of a building or structure.

**Alteration** - Any construction, retrofit, or renovation to an existing structure other than repair or addition that requires a permit by code. Also, a change in a building, electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing system that involves an extension, addition, or change to the arrangement, type, or purpose of the original installation that requires a permit.

**Authority Having Jurisdiction** - The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) is a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) term defined as an organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, installations, or procedures. The terms FCO and AHJ have the same meaning.

**Contracts** - Arrangements between two entities. These entities may include other federal agencies, private companies, or partners. Arrangements include agreements, partnerships, and contracts. Throughout RM-58, the term “contract” is used to define these arrangements.

**Director’s Order 58** - Director’s Order 58 (DO-58) supplements the NPS *Management Policies* (2006) by setting forth the operational policies necessary to establish and implement structural fire management programs throughout the NPS.

**Fire Code Official** - The fire code official (FCO) is defined in the International Fire Code (IFC) as the designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of the code or a duly authorized representative. The terms FCO and AHJ have the same meaning.

**Fireground** - The operational area at the scene of a fire. The area at which the incident commander is in control.

**Hot Work** - Operations including cutting, welding, Thermit welding, brazing, soldering, grinding, thermal spraying, thawing pipe, installation of torch-applied roof systems, or any other similar activity.

**Instrument** - An instrument is a written legal document that records the formal execution of legally enforceable acts or agreements, and secures their associated legal rights, obligations, and duties.

**International Building Code** – The IBC is a model code that provides minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare of the occupants of new and existing buildings and structures. The IBC is fully compatible with the ICC family of codes.

**International Code Council** - The ICC is a nonprofit association that provides a wide range of building safety solutions, including product evaluation, accreditation, certification, codification, and training. It develops model codes and standards used worldwide to construct safe, sustainable, affordable, and resilient structures.

**International Existing Building Code** – The IEBC covers repair, alteration, addition and change of occupancy for existing buildings and historic buildings, while achieving appropriate levels of safety without requiring full compliance with the new construction requirements contained in the other I-Codes.

**International Fire Code** – The IFC is a model code that regulates minimum fire safety requirements for new and existing buildings, facilities, storage and processes. The IFC addresses fire prevention, fire protection, life safety and the safe storage and use of hazardous materials in new and existing buildings, facilities and processes. The IFC provides a total approach of controlling hazards in all buildings and sites, regardless of the hazard being indoors or outdoors.

**National Fire Protection Association** – The NFPA is a global self-funded nonprofit organization, established in 1896, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.

**National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies** - NICET provides rigorous certification standards and recognition of qualified technology professionals who reliably apply engineering principles and practices for the benefit and safety of the public.

**NPS Prospectus Development Team** - This is the team responsible for preparing prospectuses to solicit offerors for concession contracts by accurately assessing the risk and feasibility of the business opportunity to attract high-quality bids.

**Park Structural Fire Program Manager** - Individual with the primary duties and responsibility for oversight, management, and supervision of the park structural fire program with clearly defined succession of command responsibilities (e.g., park fire chief, PSFC, emergency services coordinator).

**Pro Board** - The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications is an internationally recognized organization that accredits agencies to certify emergency responders to NFPA Professional Qualification.

**Recapitalization** - Replacement of critical component/system that extends the useful life of a capital asset, and major renovations without a significant change in function or capacity. In this definition, the word *Critical* includes all components/systems that extend the useful life of the capital asset, this is not tied to the previous NPS critical systems assets.

**Residential Group R-1:** Occupancies containing sleeping units where the occupants are primarily transient in nature, such as hotels.

**Residential Group R-2:** Occupancies containing sleeping units or more than two dwelling units where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, such as apartments or dormitories with more than 16 occupants.

**Residential Group R-3:** Occupancies where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, such as dormitories with 16 or less occupants.

**Real Property** - Real property means the land plus anything growing on it, attached to it, or erected on it, including man-made objects, such as structures, roads, sewers, and fences.

**Rehabilitation** - Any repair, renovation, alteration, or reconstruction work undertaken in an existing building.

**Repair** - The reconstruction, replacement, or renewal of any part of an existing building for the purpose of its maintenance or to correct damage.

**Smudging** - Smudging is the ceremonial burning of sacred herbs or resins.

**Structure** - Something built or constructed, as a building or picnic shelter.



**Structure Fire Incident** - A structure fire incident is a fire that involves man-made structures, such as dumpsters, boardwalks, vehicles, boats, aircraft, buildings, and/or alarm activations (except for alarm problems transmitting a 'trouble' alarm). This excludes any fires that burn only wildland fuels.

**Structural Fire Management Plan** - The SFMP sets forth the operational policies and procedures necessary to establish and implement a structural fire protection program in a park to reduce losses from structure fires. It provides guidance to assist superintendents, park staff, and contract holders with protecting people, property, and resources.

**Subject Matter Expert** - An individual who by education, training, and/or experience is a recognized expert on a particular subject, topic, or system.

# Reference Manual 58: Introduction

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Reference Manual 58: Structural Fire Management (RM-58) provides guidance on implementing a servicewide structural fire management program for the National Park Service (NPS). The National Park Service's policy on structural fire is expressed in the NPS *Management Policies* and in Director's Order 58: Structural Fire Management (DO-58).

RM-58 provides NPS employees with references, operating policies, standards, procedures, general information, recommendations, and examples to assist them in carrying out the NPS *Management Policies* and DO-58.

This reference manual supersedes all previous NPS instructions, requirements, interim policies, policy memorandums, and statements of policy relating to structural fire management.

The reference manual contains links to other pertinent information that will be valuable to personnel with structural fire responsibilities. This manual will be maintained as a living document and revisions will be made as necessary.

The objectives of RM-58 are as follows:

- Establish a framework through which the NPS institutionalizes and implements principles, codes, standards, policies, guidance, and reporting requirements related to structural fire.
- Identify the fire codes and standards that have been adopted by the NPS.
- Provide a framework for communicating the objectives and standards of the NPS structural fire management program to internal and external audiences.
- Re-emphasize that it is essential that structural fires be prevented and suppressed to protect life and property.
- Identify clear guidelines for preparing, responding, and recovering from structural fire incidents.
- Provide a consistent approach for addressing structural fire effectively and efficiently with servicewide programs such as Facility Management, Cultural Resource Management, Museum Management Program, Wildland Fire Management, Commercial Services Management, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Medical Services.