Global Impact of NFPA Standards

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Donald P. Bliss
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Today's discussion:

- The global fire problem
- Impact on the fire service
- Standards and accreditation as a solution
- Trends, challenges and barriers to success

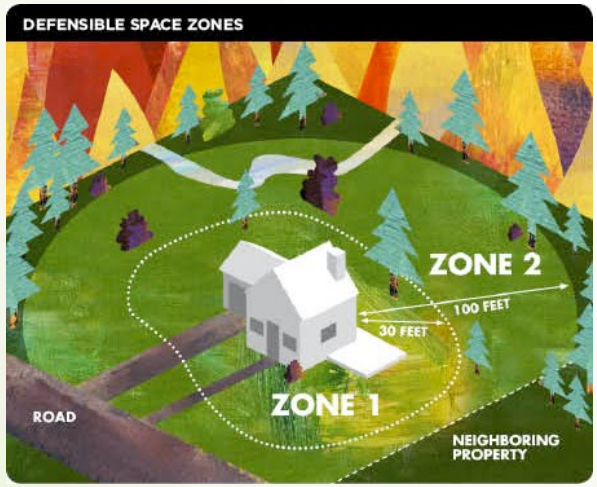
The Global Fire Problem

- 300,000 fire deaths annually
- Fourth largest cause of accidental injury
- 95% of fire deaths are are in low- and middle-income countries
- Burn injury risk highest in low-income and informal settlements
- World Bank describes fires as “small, chronic disasters”

Urbanization

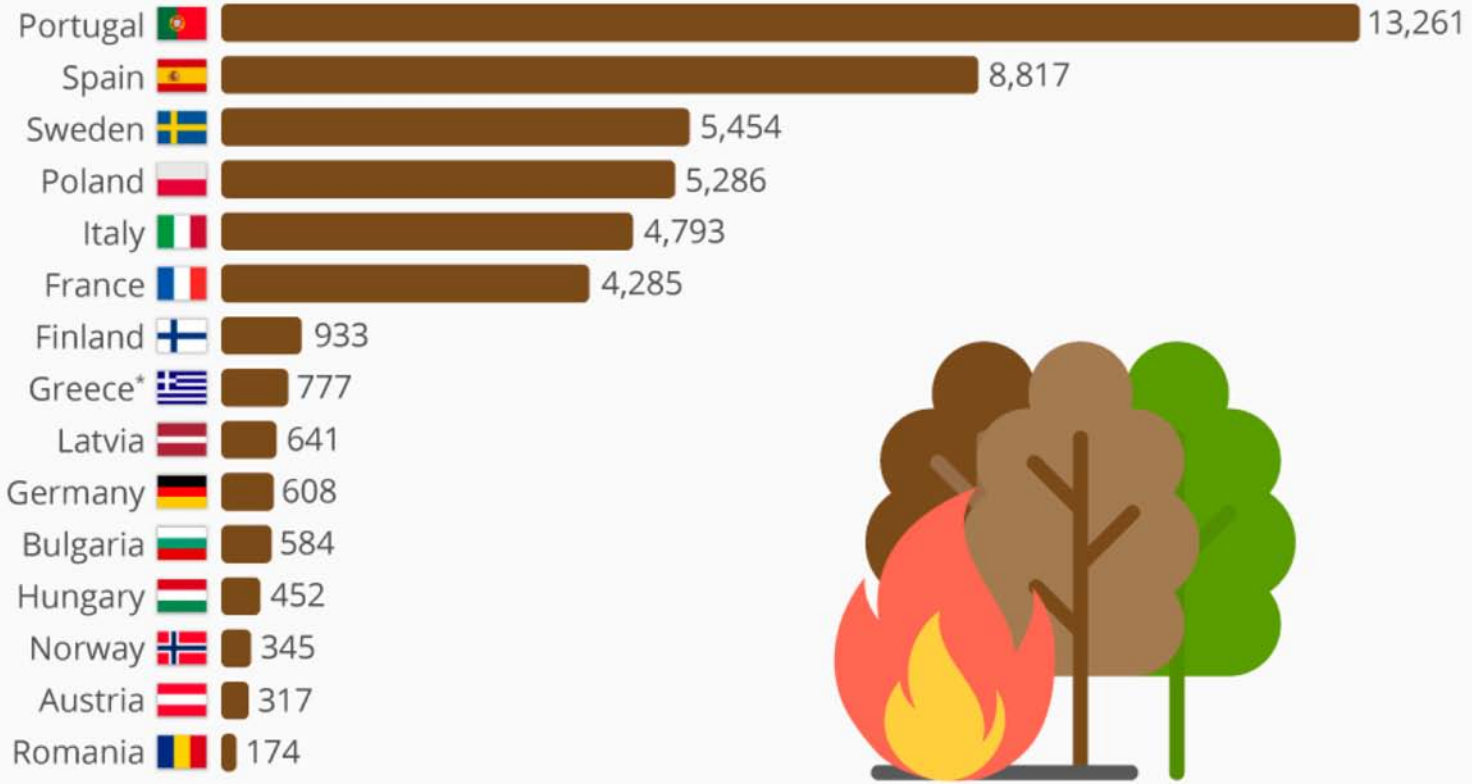
Source: The World Bank

Wildfire/WUI



Forest Fires in Europe

Number of forest fires in selected European countries in 2016



@StatistaCharts

* Estimate

Source: European Commission

statista

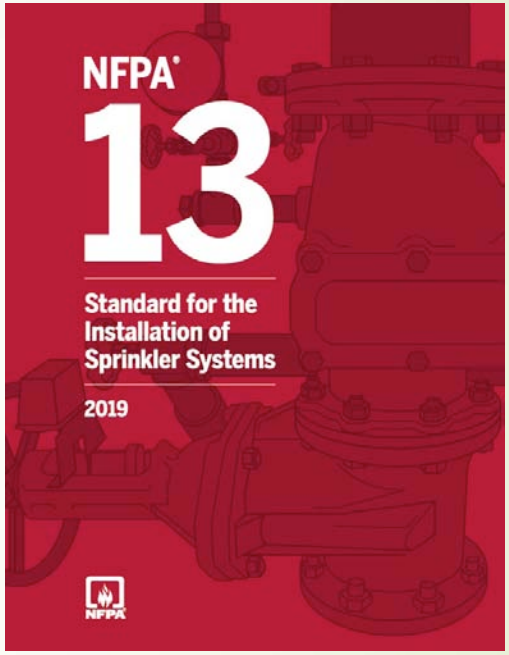
Water resources

Impact on the Fire Service

- Resource demands
- Incident management
- Training & professional development
- Proactive intervention:
  - Community risk reduction
  - Community resilience
  - Economic development
  - Prevention & mitigation strategies

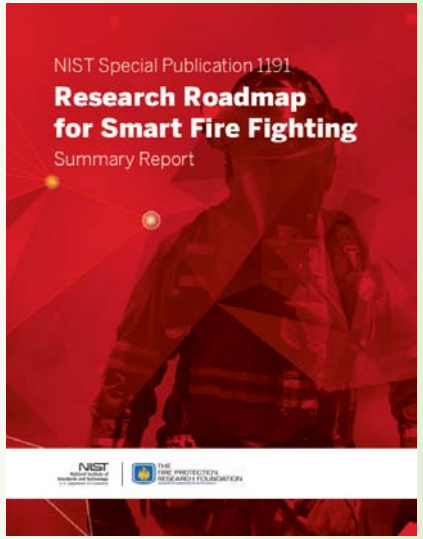
Why NFPA Standards?

- Regularly updated
- Open, balanced, transparent process
- Focus is on safety
- Can be adopted, enforced & amended locally



Why do standards change?

- Catastrophic event
- New technology
- Research identifies a new problem or solution
- Society changes the acceptable level of risk



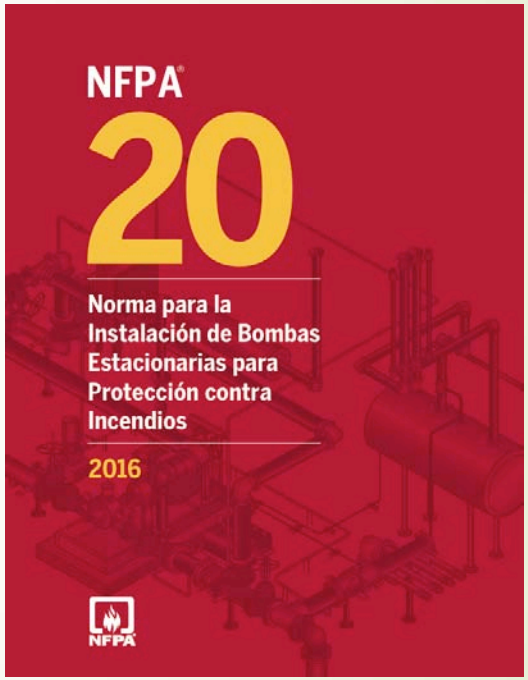
Recognition
Acceptance
✓Use
NFPA
✓Code
Adoption

Global use of NFPA standards

- Adopted or accepted in 70+ countries
- Translated into at least 15 languages
- Best practice for global industries
- Fire service trending towards NFPA standards

Global challenges for NFPA standards

- Perception that standards are US-centric
- Translation
- Training
- Global participation in development process
- More research needed
- Increased speed of technological innovation



Incentives for accreditation

- Internal fire service motivation
- Economic competition
- Public image
- ARFF: FAA criteria

Barriers to accreditation

- Cost of implementation
- Lack of understanding of accreditation
- Local/regional conditions not addressed in the standards
- Need for recognition of prior training/certification
- Competition from other standards bodies
- Language

Global fire service challenges

- Climate change
- Natural and man-made disasters/cascading events
- War/civil disorder/terrorism/government collapse
- Urbanization
- Firefighting health risks
- Unsafe construction
- Robotics
- Rapid technology changes
- Dependence on IoT

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Questions?

Donald P. Bliss

donaldpbliss@gmail.com

+1 603 677 2480