



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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DIRECTOR'S ORDER #58: STRUCTURAL FIRE MANAGEMENT

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Date: 2022.01.05 16:57:05 -05'00'
Director

Effective Date: 1/5/22

Duration: This order will remain in effect until amended or rescinded.

This Director's Order #58 supersedes and replaces the previous edition issued on April 22, 2010, and any other previously issued policy or procedural statements in conflict herewith.

Contents

1. Background
2. Purpose
3. Authority
4. Management Policies
5. Operational Principles, Policies, and Procedures
 - A. Operational Principles
 - B. Policies
 - C. Procedures
6. Program Requirements
 - A. Fire Prevention
 - B. Planning
 - C. Structural Fire Response Personnel
 - D. Management of Facilities
 - E. Natural and Cultural Resources
 - F. Commercial Services
 - G. Reporting
 - H. Investigation
 - I. Training, Qualification, and Certification
 - J. Interagency Coordination
 - K. Program Review
 - L. Funding

1. BACKGROUND

Structural fires have caused significant damage to and catastrophic loss of National Park Service (NPS) property. These fires have also resulted in deaths and numerous injuries. A professional structural fire management program is essential to the protection of human life, property, and irreplaceable cultural and natural resources from the effects of fire. Structural fire is defined as

any fire that occurs within the geographic boundaries of the National Park Service other than wildland fire (as defined in [Director's Order #18](#) and [Reference Manual 18](#), Chapter 2.1).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Director's Order is to supplement NPS [Management Policies \(2006\)](#) by setting forth the operational policies necessary to establish and implement structural fire management programs throughout the NPS.

Structural fire management is defined as the protection of human life, irreplaceable natural and cultural resources, and property from the loss and damaging effects of fire. At the park level, a fully implemented and documented structural fire management program is the most effective way to achieve this goal.

3. AUTHORITY

Authority to issue this Director's Order is contained in the NPS Organic Act ([54 USC 100101 et seq.](#)), and the delegation of authority contained in Part 245 of the Department of the Interior Manual (DM).

This Director's Order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

4. MANAGEMENT POLICIES

The sections of NPS Management Policies (2006) that pertain to structural fire management include:

- 1.9.1.4 Employee Safety and Health
- 5.3.1 Protection and Preservation of Cultural Resources
 - 5.3.1.1 Emergency Management
 - 5.3.1.2 Fire Detection, Suppression, and Post-fire Rehabilitation and Protection
- 5.3.5.4.7 Use of Historic Structures
- 5.3.5.4.8 Park Structures Owned or Managed by Others
- 8.2.5.1 Visitor Safety
- 8.2.5.2 Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Operations
- 8.6.2.3 Fireworks Displays
- 9.1.3.1 Construction Sites
- 9.1.5.1 Water Supply Systems
- 9.1.8 Structural Fire Protection and Suppression
- 9.4.2 Museum Collections Management Facilities
- 10.2.6 Concessions Facilities
 - 10.2.6.1 Design
 - 10.2.6.3 Maintenance

5. OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

A. Operational Principles

1. Life safety is, and always will be, the first priority in all NPS structural fire management activities.
2. The NPS is committed to protecting resources entrusted to its care, and will focus on preventing fires and minimizing the loss and damage resulting from fires.
3. The NPS will maintain the highest standards of professional and technical expertise throughout its structural fire management program.
4. NPS programs and sites will work to integrate structural fire management practices into all aspects of park management.

B. Policies

1. The Associate Director for Visitor and Resource Protection will issue and provide periodic revisions to Reference Manual 58 (RM-58) to help NPS managers and field staff understand and implement Departmental and Service-wide policies applicable to structural fire management. RM-58 will contain mandatory program requirements emphasizing life safety, resource protection, fire prevention, and suppression activities.
2. The Division Chief for Fire and Aviation Management will appoint the Branch Chief for Structural Fire. The Branch Chief will provide leadership and direction to ensure effective Service-wide implementation and administration of the program and will disseminate information regarding advances and developments in structural fire management and fire technology.
3. Regional directors are hereby designated as the fire code official (FCO), as defined by International Fire Code (IFC), within their respective regions.¹ The regional directors may delegate the authority of the FCO in writing to other qualified individuals within their region as necessary for the administration of all structural fire safety and enforcement.
4. Each region will have at least one structural fire manager to provide support to parks. The regional structural fire manager (RSFM) may be designated as the FCO by the regional director.
5. The superintendent will designate a park structural fire coordinator (PSFC) in writing and ensure the employee is trained per RM-58 to serve as the primary point of contact for park

¹ This position was formerly known as the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). With the adoption of the IFC and its standardized terminology, FCO and AHJ have the same meaning.

structural fire program implementation and issues.

6. In accordance with [40 USC 3312](#), the NPS adopts the IFC, the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC), and referenced codes and standards with exceptions and modifications as noted in RM-58.²
7. The NPS adopts National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for fire suppression operations, firefighter training, and certifications with exceptions and modifications as noted in RM-58.
8. Engine company members, PSFCs, fire inspectors, and regional and national level structural fire managers will be trained and certified in accordance with RM-58.

C. Procedures

1. The NPS Structural Fire Program will educate employees and park partners about structural fire prevention and hazard identification and mitigation strategies.
2. The NPS will manage structural fire incidents in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as mandated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 5 and other nationally recognized standards and procedures.
3. The FCO will be responsible for enforcing compliance with this Director's Order and RM-58, and for approving design and construction documents, equipment, materials, and all procedures regarding structural fire protection. FCOs may approve fire code alternative materials and methods (AMMs), and will be responsible for resolving conflicts between fire codes or standards.
4. Where the NPS is the lessee, leased facilities must meet the local jurisdiction fire code.
5. Each superintendent will ensure the completion of a comprehensive Life Safety and Fire Protection Risk Assessment on park buildings in accordance with the requirements of RM-58. The assessment is a physical survey and report, which provides a complete evaluation of each structure's construction, function, operational support systems, and occupancy as they impact fire protection and life safety.

²The IFC and IWUIC are model codes, part of and fully compatible with the Family of International Codes published by the International Code Council (ICC). The Denver Service Center (DSC) and most regions of the NPS design projects in accordance with ICC. The IFC replaces NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, and NFPA 1, Fire Code, while continuing to reference applicable NFPA standards.

6. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To further comply with Management Policies governing structural fire management in the NPS, the Service adopts the following program requirements.

A. Fire Prevention

1. All target hazard buildings as defined in RM-58 will be inspected annually by NPS, partner, volunteer, contractor, or concession personnel who have been trained to perform structural fire inspections.
2. Hot work permit programs will be established in every park where hot work takes place, as required by RM-58.
3. All fire protection systems will have inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) performed at least once a year, as required by RM-58, ensuring they are fully operational. More frequent ITM is required for some occupancies and systems.

B. Planning

1. Each superintendent will complete a Structural Fire Management Plan (SFMP) in accordance with guidelines and procedures outlined in RM-58. Once a draft SFMP is approved by the superintendent, the plan will be reviewed by the RSFM to ensure that it complies with the policies contained therein.
2. Parks with museum collections must append a Museum Fire Section to the SFMP in accordance with [NPS Museum Handbook, Part I, Chapter 9: Museum Fire Protection](#).
3. Each superintendent will ensure adequate arrangements are in place for structural fire response.

C. Structural Fire Response Personnel

1. Structural fire response personnel will consider the protection of human life as their first priority in all structural fire management activities.
2. Structural fire suppression personnel will:
 - (a) Meet appropriate NFPA training and certification qualification standards as outlined in RM-58.
 - (b) Be equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing that meets or exceeds Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and NFPA standards.
 - (c) Meet the medical and fitness standards specified in RM-58.

3. Structural firefighting apparatus, tools, and equipment must comply with standards specified in NFPA as outlined in RM-58.

D. Management of Facilities

1. Construction, alteration, movement, repair, maintenance, and use of any building, structure, or premises within the wildland-urban interface areas of the NPS will adhere to the IWUIC, which has been adopted by the NPS in [Reference Manual 18](#), Wildland Fire Management.
2. The designated FCO is required to review and approve all construction plans and documents for all planned new construction or building alterations for compliance with applicable fire and life safety codes and NPS policy.
3. All required inspection and testing of fire protection systems will be tracked by the designated system of record. Parks will ensure fire protection systems inventory and maintenance needs are accurately tracked in the system of record for all NPS assets, including those operated by concessioners.

E. Natural and Cultural Resources

1. The NPS Structural Fire Program will provide policy, training, tools, and expertise to protect natural and cultural resources, including historic and prehistoric structures, museum and archival collections, and associated collection records from damage or loss to the greatest extent possible.
2. Automatic detection and suppression systems, based on codes, standards, [Director's Order #24](#): NPS Museum Collections Management, and the NPS Museum Handbook, Part I, Chapter 9: Museum Fire Protection, will be installed, inspected, and maintained in buildings storing or exhibiting collections. Exceptions must be documented by the superintendent in writing and only after consultation with the FCO and regional museum curator.
3. The superintendent will ensure entities providing fire suppression for the park are offered an annual opportunity to walk through and perform a pre-incident plan of buildings storing or exhibiting collections, in collaboration with the park curator.

F. Commercial Services

1. Commercial service operations will comply with the IFC and all other codes, standards, and policies adopted by this Director's Order and RM-58.
2. Concessioners are responsible for limiting fire hazards by conducting fire and life safety inspections and ITM of fire protection systems in the facilities assigned to them in accordance with their contract.

3. Each superintendent will ensure that contracts and contract exhibits address the requirements contained in this Director's Order and RM-58. Through the annual evaluation process, superintendents will review and evaluate the concessioner's fire and life safety program to include standard operating procedures, ITM records, and building inspection records. Program deficiencies identified during this evaluation must be addressed in a timely manner by the concessioner. Fire and life safety program deficiencies and corrective actions will be forwarded to the RSFM.
4. Each superintendent will ensure concessioners comply with applicable fire and life safety codes and NPS policies during construction and demolition projects. All plans and documents for new construction or building alterations must be prepared and stamped by State-licensed architects and engineers, and be reviewed by the designated FCO.
5. Concessioner employees engaged in park structural fire suppression programs must meet the training and certification requirements specified in this Director's Order and RM-58.
6. Concessioner structural fire engine companies may operate only when a current, formal written structural fire aid agreement with the park is in place and the requirement is clearly stated in their contract.

G. Reporting

All NPS structural fires involving incident response, suppression action, or destruction of property must be reported in accordance with the requirements of RM-58.

H. Investigation

All structural fire incidents will be investigated in accordance with the requirements of RM-58.

I. Training, Qualification, and Certification

1. Superintendents will ensure that all employees receive basic structural fire prevention training as referenced in RM-58.
2. All NPS staff, concessioner employees, administratively determined (AD) or emergency hires, and park partners participating in structural fire prevention or suppression activities must meet the training and certification requirements specified in RM-58.
3. Periodic live fire training exercises are required for all fire suppression positions. Live fire training will be conducted in accordance with NFPA standards identified in RM-58.
4. All structural fire suppression personnel must receive medical clearance and successfully complete physical fitness and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) fit tests in accordance with RM-58.

5. Park superintendents are responsible for verifying and certifying that their structural fire suppression personnel meet the medical, physical, position training, and certification standards specified in RM-58.
6. All structural fire suppression personnel will have their training and qualification records entered into an NPS database as specified in RM-58.
7. All structural fire instructors must meet the qualification standards specified in RM-58.

J. Interagency Coordination

1. Parks that rely on non-NPS entities for fire suppression must establish relationships and mutual aid or other appropriate types of agreements where possible with primary responding agencies. In instances where local governments will not enter into formal agreements, the attempt to obtain one must be documented and preserved in a Memorandum for the Record.
2. Parks will ensure that first responders are provided with pre-incident plans and are given the opportunity to attend park and building familiarization tours.
3. Any formal written agreement must comply with Director's Order #20: Agreements.

K. Program Review

Regional and park structural fire programs will be periodically reviewed for quality and effectiveness as required by RM-58.

L. Funding

1. Parks will allocate monies from the Operation of the National Park System (ONPS) account and other funds to support structural fire management programs, including completion of inspection and testing of fire protection systems.
2. Parks maintaining structural fire response capabilities must ensure adequate funding for the periodic replacement of PPE, equipment, and fire apparatus.

---- End of Director's Order ----