"Traffic Incident Management Requirements in NFPA 1500" Module Handout

This handout lists the major teaching points covered in the Responder Safety Learning Network module titled "Traffic Incident Management Requirements in NFPA 1500." This document is intended as a companion to the module and is not a substitute for taking the module in its online format. This handout is provided to assist members of the Responder Safety Learning Network with their personal professional development. Therefore, this handout should be used as reference only and is not to be used, duplicated or distributed independently of the module without express written permission from the Responder Safety Learning Network.

Module Abstract

The 2018 edition of *NFPA 1500: Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program* has a new chapter on Traffic Incident Management. This chapter expands the previous minimum requirements for traffic incident management safety and training for fire departments within their occupational health and safety program. This new chapter includes requirements for SOPs, high visibility apparel, safe positioning, blocking, advance warning, establishing a traffic incident management area, and traffic control training. This module highlights these requirements and point departments to resources that will help them meet the requirements of the standard.

Module Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this module, the learner should be able to:

- Explain what an NFPA standard is
- Describe what NFPA 1500 is and why it is important
- Discuss NFPA 1500's traffic incident management chapter and explain what each section requires of the fire department
- Describe how NFPA 1500 relates to NFPA 1091
- Explain what NFPA 1091 is and why it is relevant to the work of firefighters
- Explain why collaboration and cooperation are key to effective traffic incident management

SHRP2 NATIONAL TIM TRAINING CORRELATIONS

None

Module Resources

Resources are available from the Resources tab in the module.

What are NFPA Standards?

- NFPA conducts fire research, delivers training and public education, and develops consensus codes and standards that set minimum requirements.
- The term "standard' includes a wide variety of technical works that prescribe rules, guidelines, best practices, specifications, test methods, design or installation procedures and the like.
- The size, scope and subject matter of standards varies widely.
- NFPA's voluntary consensus standards are developed by groups of subject matter experts from many stakeholders in that standard's industry.
- A standard becomes mandatory when an authority having jurisdiction adopts the standard in whole or in part.
- Even if the standard is not adopted by your AHJ, following it has advantages, including:
    - Implementing consensus best practices contained in the standard to protect the department's personnel and the community served
    - Consistency with surrounding jurisdictions
    - Potential for an improved ISO rating for the department
- Many NFPA standards have been so widely adopted that their provisions are generally recognized as what a reasonable and prudent fire chief and fire department are expected to implement.

What is NFPA 1500?

- NFPA 1500, Standard for Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program sets the minimum requirements for these programs.
- For departments in jurisdictions that have not adopted NFPA 1500 or its equivalent, leadership should strongly consider voluntarily complying with NFPA 1500 because it is the industry-accepted best practice.

Notes

- For the 2018 Edition, the committee expanded existing language setting requirements for traffic incident management safety and training and gave that topic its own chapter.

NFPA 1500's Traffic Incident Management Chapter

- Section 9.2 requires fire departments to
  - establish, implement, and enforce SOPs for operations involving traffic
  - provide roadway hazards and safety training for all personnel
  - communicate, collaborate, and coordinate with other response agencies when developing traffic incident management SOPs, planning, and training
- Sections 9.3, 9.4.5, and 9.4.6 set the requirements for use of advance warning devices:
  - Advance warning devices must be placed to provide early warning to the motoring public and that weather and topography features must be taken into consideration.
  - A minimum of 5 cones must be used to close a lane.
  - The cones should be 28" or taller, fluorescent orange, and marked with retroreflective tape as required by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Sections 9.4, 9.4.1, 9.4.2, and 9.4.4 all deal with the use of apparatus as a blocking device:
  - First-arriving apparatus must be positioned as a block to protect the scene.
  - Placement must include a buffer area between the apparatus and the work area.
  - Apparatus used for blocking must reduce warning lighting once a TIMA has been established.
  - Ambulances must be positioned "in a safe location to allow patient loading away from traffic."
- Sections 9.4.3, 9.4.7, and 9.4.8 require safe positioning of vehicles and personnel at the roadway incident scene.
  - Any response vehicles not used for blocking are to be positioned downstream of the blocking vehicle with reduced warning lights, unless their function requires them to be positioned upstream of the blocking vehicle.

Notes

    - Any vehicles not needed for the response and any personal vehicles driven to the scene must be positioned off the roadway or downstream of the work area.
    - Fire department members must position themselves and victims in a safe area.
- Section 9.4.9 requires fire department members to wear high visibility apparel when working in proximity to traffic. Apparel must be ANSI 107-compliant or, if exposed to fire, heat, flame, or hazardous materials, be NFPA-compliant turnout gear.
- Section 9.4.10 requires that personnel who are assigned to traffic control receive training that is commensurate with their duties and in accordance with NFPA 1091.
- Supplemental material about traffic incident management in the Annex section starting with A.9.4 provides helpful information.

Relationship of NFPA 1500 to NFPA 1091

- NFPA 1091 is the professional qualifications standard that sets the minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) for personnel who perform traffic incident management and traffic control duties.
- NFPA 1500 section 9.4.10 explicitly requires that personnel assigned traffic control duties receive training in accordance with NFPA 1091.

Collaborate and Cooperate

- Very often, multiple agencies must work together to ensure the implementation of traffic control and the practice of procedures that prioritize safety.
- Collaboration and cooperation must start before the incident occurs.
- Relationship can be formal, as in a TIM Team or Committee, or informal.
- Preplan how responders on the ground will work together to render assistance and clear an incident.

Notes

Conclusion: Funding Opportunities

- FEMA USFA Assistance to Firefighter Grants to purchase equipment and conduct training
- Free traffic incident management training from the Responder Safety Learning Network, including a National TIM Training Certificate
- Free traffic incident management training from the Federal Highway Administration through resources in each state or online
- Surplus and discounted traffic control equipment from State Departments of Transportation
- Special pricing on traffic control equipment through state contracts
- Use of state DOT, local police, and public works resources like message boards, safety service patrols, training opportunities, and other existing services
- Resources, including model SOPs for traffic control, available on ResponderSafety.com and on the Resources page for this module.

About the Responder Safety Learning Network

The Emergency Responder Safety Institute of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association provides the Responder Safety Learning Network as part of its mission to improve the safety of the nation's emergency responders by:

- Engaging in and promoting activities that include developing educational material to support responder safety training
- Promoting the National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management (TIM) including responder safety; safe, quick clearance; and interoperable communications
- Encouraging the development of TIM Teams
- Promoting collaboration, communication and cooperation among the nation's emergency responders
- Keeping emergency responders up to date on national rules, regulations and trends related to safe roadway incident operations.

The content on the Responder Safety Learning Network is developed in cooperation with and vetted by recognized consulting experts in the many aspects of traffic incident management. The consultants for each training module are listed under the "Consultants" tab of the module's navigation bar. The members of the CVVFA Emergency Responder Safety Institute are listed here.

The Responder Safety Learning Network delivers free training modules and downloadable resources in various aspects of safety related to traffic incident response. These modules and resources proceed from the basis provided by the National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management, which promotes coordinated and consistent response protocols across all agencies with jurisdiction of traffic incidents. Content is also in alignment with any associated standards and requirements that apply to an individual module or resource topic. The testing and documentation available for module completion assists emergency responders in keeping a training record that can assist with meeting continuing education requirements.

The Responder Safety Learning Network is found on the web at http://learning.respondersafety.com.

This module is available here:
https://learning.respondersafety.com/Training_Programs/Traffic_Incident_Management_Requirements_in_NFPA_1500.aspx

