

PREFACE

It is my privilege to be involved in this educational project by my good friend, James Foley. As an instructor and course developer at the national, state, and local levels, I have had the honor to be associated with Jim for nearly a decade. His new textbook, *Principles of Code Enforcement*, is packed with practical information. Chief Foley is a highly respected fire service leader, and an educator and emergency responder who knows the complex challenges of crawling down dark hallways and standing up to the political influences of the Atlantic City gaming industry. Over many years, he has built a solid reputation as an advocate in public safety and risk reduction for first responders. The valuable information contained within these pages, when properly applied, will directly reduce fires and increase safety.

Today, emergency responders face enormous difficulties, from the dangers in the fire stations to the dangers of the fire ground. This text provides tangible tips to outline the sustainable steps needed to ensure that the public and first responders have not forgotten the large fire losses of the past, and it will become the cornerstone for creating a fire-safe community.

Firefighting operations have changed since my first run back in January of 1973. As a firefighter, company commander and chief officer, I quickly learned that situational awareness is an essential element. Fire attack, ventilation, search, and rapid intervention crews (RIC) all hinge on having useable information. Building construction, fire load, limits of bunker gear, and the need for wearing an SCBA combined with smaller staffing has altered the mind-set of the modern incident commander. Reliable technology and familiarity with the fire protection features of various occupancy groups are vital. Citizens depend on early warning in order to avoid harm, and first responders require immediate information to be effective. Valuable knowledge of historical events, the evolution of codes, and changes in consensus standards and adoption of regulations found within this text will increase the likelihood of better life safety and incident stabilization decisions.

All stakeholders from the onset of the design of a structure to the response phase need technical knowledge of the auxiliary appliances needed during an emergency. Proper prevention planning and the courage to apply the fire code to all structures is the single opportunity to make a significant difference. Jim Foley's text captures critical case studies that will help today's new generation of fire service leaders correctly interpret and understand the purpose of a strong fire code. Code enforcement officers need to develop a fair process so that elected officials and business entrepreneurs can fully support enforcement procedures. First responders have an obligation to gather background information on active and passive protective systems in their advance-planning phase. This text is the best available tool for gaining insight into practical approaches to improving response and recovery efforts in any community.

First responders, at the strategic, tactical, and task levels, have to make many decisions during the first few moments on the fire ground. You can increase the odds of stopping the crisis, properly allocating resources, and ensuring that "everyone goes home" by investing your time in comprehending the intent of this text. This intent is a simple one: to identify a pipeline of potential problems from past practices, cost, culture, resources, and risk. Then the text finds the straightforward solution—enforcement of the fire code during the construction and occupancy phase!

I found this text to be thorough, time-tested, and insightful. Having a "baseline" on the importance of built-in fire protection features is the only logical way to prepare for the challenges of command during a rapidly escalating emergency.

As you use your knowledge of prevention projects, you will be supporting the overall mission of the founding fathers of the fire service—preventing devastating disasters! It is my privilege to continue as a strong supporter of quality fire prevention and risk reduction endeavors.

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Using This Book

This book contains 14 chapters, and it can be easily adapted to a fire prevention college-level course in a 15-week semester. The text covers the recommended requirements for higher education established by both FESHE and NFPA 1031, *Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors*, and NFPA 1037, *Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshals*. The text also identifies several of the 16 life safety initiatives specified for firefighter safety and survival in “Everybody Goes Home” from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

- Chapter 1:** Builds the history and background of fire prevention by examining major fires and events that helped to shape the codes of today. It explores the very foundations of the American fire services approach to fire prevention.
- Chapter 2:** Discusses the basics of fire prevention organization including how the model codes developed, training standards for fire inspectors, prescriptive versus performance codes, and strategies for code development as well as an overview of budgeting for fire marshals and fire officials.
- Chapter 3:** Identifies the analysis necessary for community risk assessment. This chapter provides statistical analysis in a simplified format to turn data into useful information. This helps identify useful measurements for the fire marshal or fire official to use in support of fire prevention programs.
- Chapter 4:** Develops an understanding of fire prevention’s mission and the vision and leadership necessary to deal with fire department change. Fire prevention inspectors must learn how to become effective managers and good leaders in their organizations in a changing code enforcement and building construction environment.
- Chapter 5:** Takes the fire inspector through the entire fire inspection process from the review of the building file to the closing interview with the owner explaining each key element in the process.
- Chapter 6:** Identifies the after-inspection activities of preparing and writing fire inspection reports and preparing notices of violation. This chapter reviews the process for board of appeals and court hearings and helps the fire inspector prepare for giving testimony in fire code enforcement cases.
- Chapter 7:** Describes the commonplace fire code violations that occur in most building use groups. The fire inspector will learn how to identify and correct these common fire hazards.
- Chapter 8:** Addresses the inspection of facilities containing large quantities of hazardous materials. The chapter reviews the background of federal regulations that are the foundation of the fire code and helps the inspector identify proper handling, storage, and use requirements.
- Chapter 9:** Explores the elements of the means of egress both from a building code design perspective and the fire code maintenance requirements. This chapter illustrates key egress concepts that all fire inspectors must understand to deal with emergency exiting in all types on buildings.
- Chapter 10:** Identifies the elements of passive fire protection employed in building construction, including the five types of construction and the important role of

fire test conformance. This section helps the fire inspector identify the passive fire protection features of the building.

Chapter 11: Describes the importance of fire alarm systems and provides the fire inspector with the technical knowledge of how they operate and how they should be tested. This chapter helps the fire inspector identify deficiencies in fire alarm coverage or equipment performance.

Chapter 12: Reviews the applicable NFPA standards and requirements for water-based fire protection systems and helps the fire inspector identify key inspection points for automatic sprinklers, fire standpipes, fire pumps, and other specialized fire protection systems.

Chapter 13: Explores the fire inspector's role in community planning related to the establishment of effective water supply for the fire department. This chapter explores planning and zoning requirements as well as evaluating both urban and rural water supply systems.

Chapter 14: Offers fire inspectors additional insight into the plan review process as it relates to fire protection system evaluation. The chapter identifies the different types of architectural and engineering drawings that are reviewed and the types of fire protection information that are required to be provided on submitted plans.

While many fire inspector texts may cover these areas of subject matter, this text is unique in that it provides in-depth technical knowledge coupled with practical experience and presents it in a simple-to-understand manner. This text will not only be useful to new fire inspectors in training but will provide a reference resource of information to seasoned fire inspectors, fire marshals, fire officials, and fire chiefs for years to come.

Ancillary Materials

Through Resource Central, this text invites students to enrich their classroom learning with quizzes, web links, and additional content related to the topic of Code Enforcement. Instructors will also find here a full complement of supplemental teaching materials such as test banks, PowerPoint lectures, and an instructor's manual to facilitate the teaching process.