

Glossary of Terms

The terminology used in this report is taken from common terms used in the National Fire Protection Association. A description of a few of those terms is as follows:

ALARM

Any notification made to the fire department that a situation exists or may exist that requires a response.

AREA OF ORIGIN

The room or area within the property where the fire originated.

AUTOMATIC

As applied to fire protection devices, a device or system providing an emergency function without the necessity of human intervention.

AUTOMATIC AID

Predetermined and preauthorized two-way assistance rendered between departments under the terms of a written agreement.

BUILDING

A structure enclosed with walls and a roof and having a defined height.

BUILDING CODE TYPE

Building code classification of the building involved in the incident.

BUILDING FIRE (also structure fire)

Any fire occurring inside or involving a building. A building fire may be a wastebasket, a mattress fire, or a roof fire, whether or not structural members were actually involved.

CASUALTY – CIVILIAN

A civilian who is injured or killed at the scene of a fire.

CASUALTY – FIRE PERSONNEL

Fire personnel who are injured or killed as a result of responding to, handling, or returning from an incident.

COMBUSTIBLE

A material or structure that will burn.

FIRE AREA

The space within a structure bound by fire division assemblies (two-hour fire rating or greater).

FORM OF HEAT (see HEAT OF IGNITION)

FORM OF MATERIAL (see MATERIAL FIRST IGNITED)

Glossary of Terms

GENERAL PURPOSE USE

The general use of land or space under the same management, ownership, or within the same legal boundaries; including any structures, vehicles or other appurtenances thereon.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

Any material that is an air-reactive material, flammable, or combustible liquid, flammable gas, corrosive material, explosive material, organic peroxide, oxidizing material, radioactive material, toxic material, unstable material or reactive material, and any substance or mixture of substances that is an irritant, a strong sensitizer, or that generates pressure through exposure to heat, decomposition, or other means.

HEAT OF IGNITION

The heat energy that brings about ignition. Heat energy comes in various forms and usually from a specific object or source. Therefore, the heat of ignition is divided into two parts: "equipment involved in ignition" and "form of heat of ignition."

IGNITION FACTOR

The condition or situation that allowed a heat source and a combustible material to combine to initiate a fire.

MATERIAL FIRST IGNITED

The combustible that is first set on fire by the heat of ignition. To be meaningful, both a type of material and a form of material must be identified.

MUTUAL AID

Assistance provided under a written agreement that establishes general guidelines and procedures for providing and receiving assistance between fire departments. (Requested in addition to initial dispatch)

STRUCTURE FIRE (Residential & Commercial)

Any fire inside a structure or on, under or touching a structure. A structure fire may be an automobile fire in a tunnel, a leaking flange in a refinery tower, or a building.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Identification of who controls the property where the incident occurred.

SPECIFIC PROPERTY

The use to which a specific space, structure, or portion of a structure is put by the owner, tenant, or occupant of the space.

WILDFIRE

Any uncontrolled fire burning in wild land vegetation, including any structures or other improvements thereon.

WILDLAND

Land in an uncultivated, more or less natural state, and covered.