

NFPA No.

**291**

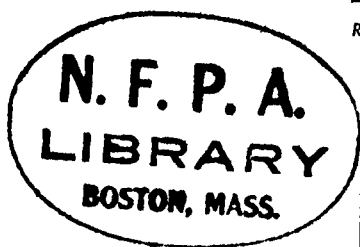
*File: 20 Series  
Fire Extinguishing Auxiliaries*

APR 05 1971

**Recommendations for**  
**UNIFORM MARKING**  
**of**  
**FIRE HYDRANTS**

**1935**

*Reprint 1960*



Twenty-five Cents\*

**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
**International**

**60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Mass.**

# National Fire Protection Association

International

Executive Office: 60 Batterymarch St., Boston 10, Mass.

The National Fire Protection Association was organized in 1896 to promote the science and improve the methods of fire protection and prevention, to obtain and circulate information on these subjects and to secure the cooperation of its members in establishing proper safeguards against loss of life and property by fire. Its membership includes two hundred national and regional societies and associations (list on outside back cover) and seventeen thousand individuals, corporations, and organizations. Anyone interested may become a member; membership information is available on request.

This pamphlet is one of a large number of publications on fire safety issued by the Association including periodicals, books, posters and other publications; a complete list is available without charge on request. All NFPA standards adopted by the Association are published in six volumes of the **National Fire Codes** which are re-issued annually and which are available on an annual subscription basis. The standards, prepared by the technical committees of the National Fire Protection Association and adopted in the annual meetings of the Association, are intended to prescribe reasonable measures for minimizing losses of life and property by fire. All interests concerned have opportunity through the Association to participate in the development of the standards and to secure impartial consideration of matters affecting them.

NFPA standards are purely advisory as far as the Association is concerned, but are widely used by law enforcing authorities in addition to their general use as guides to fire safety.

## Definitions

The official NFPA definitions of shall, should and approved are:

**SHALL** is intended to indicate requirements.

**SHOULD** is intended to indicate recommendations, or that which is advised but not required.

**APPROVED** refers to approval by the authority having jurisdiction.

Units of measurements used here are U. S. standard. 1 U. S. gallon = 0.83 Imperial gallons = 3.785 liters.

## Approved Equipment

The National Fire Protection Association does not "approve" individual items of fire protection equipment, materials or services. The standards are prepared, as far as practicable, in terms of required performance, avoiding specifications of materials, devices or methods so phrased as to preclude obtaining the desired results by other means. The suitability of devices and materials for installation under these standards is indicated by the listings of nationally recognized testing laboratories, whose findings are customarily used as a guide to approval by agencies applying these standards. Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada and the Factory Mutual Laboratories test devices and materials for use in accordance with the appropriate standards, and publish lists which are available on request.

## Marking of Hydrants.

NFPA No. 291—1935

The N.F.P.A. Committee on Public Water Supplies for Private Fire Protection in its 1934 report presented the idea of indicating relative available fire service draft of hydrants by different colors which the Committee believes is of substantial value to Water and Fire Departments. The following Standard Recommendations were developed and officially adopted in 1935. The Committee agreed that tests of individual hydrants do not give as complete and satisfactory results as group testing, but expressed the opinion that tests of individual hydrants have sufficient value to make the following recommendations worthy of adoption.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNIFORM MARKING OF FIRE HYDRANTS.

- (1) That hydrants be classified as follows:—

Class A—Flow capacity of 1000 g.p.m. or greater.

Class B—Flow capacity of 500-1000 g.p.m.

Class C—Flow capacity of less than 500 g.p.m.

Capacities to be rated by flow measurement tests of individual hydrants at a period of ordinary demand. Rating to be based on 20 lb. per sq. in. residual pressure when initial pressures are over 40 lbs. per sq. in. When initial pressures are less than 40 lbs. per sq. in. residual pressures shall be at least half of the initial.

- (2) That the following capacity-indicating color scheme be adopted as providing simplicity and consistency with colors used in signal work for safety, danger and intermediate condition:

#### PUBLIC HYDRANTS

All barrels to be chrome yellow except in cases where another color has already been adopted.

Class A—Tops and nozzle caps—Green.

Class B—Tops and nozzle caps—Orange.

Class C—Tops and nozzle caps—Red.

#### PRIVATE HYDRANTS

Within private enclosures, the marking to be at the discretion of the owners.

When in public streets, they should be painted entirely red to distinguish them from public hydrants.

- (3) That all location markers for flush hydrants should carry the same color background as stated above for class indication, with such data stenciled or painted thereon as may be deemed necessary.

- (4) That the colors shall be understood to signify only the individual capacity of the hydrant as tested and not group hydrant effect.

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES FOR  
PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION.**

**J. Samuel Slicer, Jr.,** *Chairman,*

Factory Mutual Engineering Division, 1151 Boston-Providence Turnpike, Norwood, Mass.

**E. Arthur Bell,** American Water Works Assn.

**C. E. Burtner,** Department of the Navy.

**Kenneth J. Carl,** National Board of Fire Underwriters.

**C. F. Clarkson,** Association of American Railroads, Fire Protection and Insurance Section.

**L. B. Hansen,** Factory Insurance Assn.

**W. N. Lawton,** National Automatic Sprinkler & Fire Control Assn.

**Robert H. Merz,** Middle Department Assn. of Fire Underwriters.

**Lawrence H. Smith,** Cook County Inspection Bureau.

**Stearns H. Whitney,** Improved Risk Mutuals.

The personnel shown above is that of the Committee at the time of the reprint of the present standard.

# POCKET EDITIONS OF NFPA STANDARDS

Standards published in 4 1/4 x 7 1/4 in. size, revised as of June 3, 1960. These standards also appear, with identical text, in the seven volumes of the National Fire Codes, republished annually. For complete list of publications write National Fire Protection Assn., 60 Batterymarch St., Boston 10, Mass.

## O Series: Administration

1L Fire Prev. Bur. Ord. '25	. \$25
3 Fire Casualty Def. '53	. 25
6M Fire Safety in Industry '55	. 35
7M Controlling Fire Emerg. '59	. 50

## 10 Series: Extinguishing Appliances

10 Portable Extinguishers '59	. 60
11 Foam Ext. Systems '60	. 60
12 Carbon Dioxide Systems '57	. 75
13 Sprinkler Systems '60	. 1.25
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14 Standpipe, Hose Systems '52	. 50
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17 Dry Chem. Ext. Systems '58	. 50
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182M Vaporizing Liquid '58	. 25
19 Fire Apparatus Specs. '60	. 75
191 Portable Pump, Units '59	. 35
192 Vol. Fire Departments '58	1.00
193 Ladders, Ground-Aerial '59	. 50
194 Hose Coupling Threads '59	. 50
196 Fire Hose '60	. 40
198 Fire Hose, Care of '58	. 50

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20 Centrifugal Fire Pumps '60	1.00
22 Water Tanks '58	1.00
23 Fire Dept. Spr. Conner. '31	. 25
24 Outside Protection '59	. 50
26 Supervision Valves '58	. 40
27 Private Fire Brigades '55	. 35
29C Hydrants '55	. 25
291 Marking of Hydrants '35	. 25
295M Forest Fire Equip. '56	1.00

## 30 Series: Flammable Liquids

30 Flam. Liquids Code '59	. 60
30E Self-Service Gas Sta. '50	1.10
31 Oil Burning Equipment '59	. 60
31A Oil Burning Ord. '27	. 25
32 Dry Cleaning Plants '56	. 35
325 Prop. Flam. Liquids '60	1.50
325A Flashpoint Index of Trade Name Liquids '59	1.50
326 Warning Labels '51	. 25
327 Cleaning Small Tanks '57	. 40
328M Manholes, Sewers, Flam. Liquids and Gases in '56	. 25
329M Underground Tank Leakage '59	. 50
33 Spray Finishing '69	. 50
34 Din Tanks '59	. 50
36 Solvent Extraction '59	. 50
37 Combustion Engines, '59	. 50
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393 Gasoline Blow Torches '34	. 25
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43 Pyroxylin Warehouses '40	. 35
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46 Lumber, Outdoor Storage '60	. 40
47 Retail Lumber Storage '51	. 25
48 Magnesium '59	. 50

481 Titanium '59	. \$50
482M Zirconium '59	. 40
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492 Table Spon. Htg. '49	. 40
494L State Fireworks Law '49	. 25
495 Explosives, Stge., Use '59	. 50

## 50 Series: Gases

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51 Gas Piping, Appliances '59	. 50
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59 LP-Gas Utility Plants '58	. 50

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61B Terminal Elevators '59	. 50
61C Flour and Feed Mills '59	. 50
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65 Aluminum Processing '59	. 40
651 Alum. Bronze Powder '59	. 50
652 Magnesium Powder '59	. 40
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655 Sulfur Fires '59	. 50
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657 Confectionery Plants '59	. 40
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71 Central Station Sig. '60	. 50
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72C Remote Station Systems '60	. 50
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71M Home Fire Alarm Syst. '60	. 35
77 Static Electricity '50	. 50
78 Lightning Code '59	. 50

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80A Exposure Protection '25	. 35
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83 Transit Operations '59	. 50
86 Ovens and Furnaces '60	1.00
87 Piers and Wharves '54	. 35
88 Garages '57	. 50
90A Air Conditioning Syst. '60	. 50
90B Residence Warm Air Heating, Air Conditioning '60	. 50
91 Blower and Exhaust Syst. '49	. 50
92 Waterproofing of Floors '37	. 35
93 Dehydrators and Driers '54	. 35
96 Ventilation Restaurant Cooking Equipment '59	. 25
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214 Water Cooling Towers '59	. 40
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223 Fire Protective Construction on the Farm '53	. 35
224 Homes Forested Areas '53	. 35
231 General Storage '56	. 35
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241 Bldg. Constr. Operation '58	. 35
212 Construction Bridges '37	. 25
251 Fire Tests Bldg. Matl. '60	. 50
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255 Flamespread Tests '58	. 35
256 Tests Roof Coverings '58	. 50

## 300 Series: Marine

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304L Petroleum Wharves '38	. 25
306 Gas Hazards on Vessels '60	. 50
307 Marine Terminals '51	. 25
312 Vessels, Constr.-Repair '51	. 15

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403 Aircraft Rescue Equip. '60	1.00
404 Static Elec., Aircraft '60	. 40
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406 Handling Crash Fires '55	. 35
407 Aircraft Fueling '60	. 75
408 Aircraft Extinguishers '56	. 25
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# NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

## INTERNATIONAL

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