

# Global Fire Safety Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

DOING ALL WE CAN TO PREVENT AND PROTECT

7 May 2018 | Donald P Bliss | Vice President for Field Operations



IT'S A BIG WORLD. LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.™

# OUR MISSION

We **help** save lives and  
reduce loss with **information,**  
**knowledge**  
and **passion**



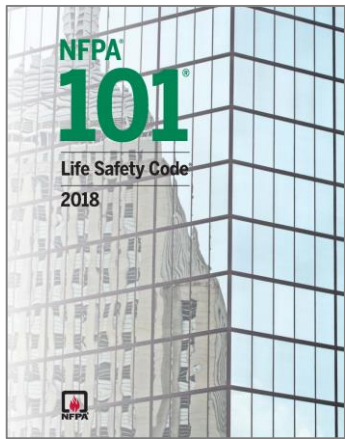


A photograph of a fire station's gear rack, featuring multiple compartments with fire helmets on top, fire jackets hanging in the middle, and blue gear bags at the bottom. The entire image is framed by a red border.

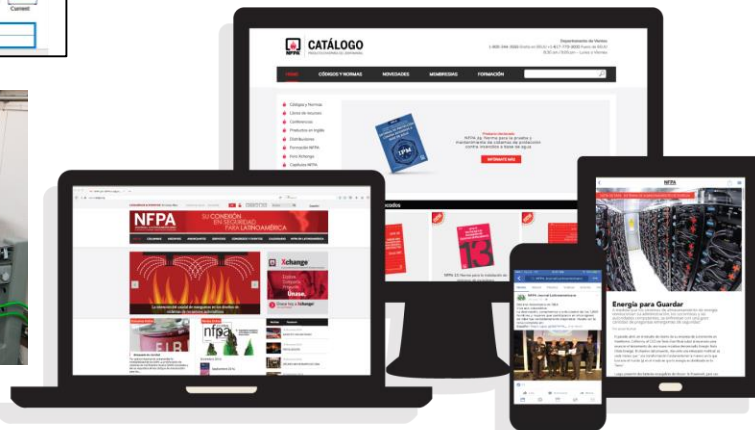
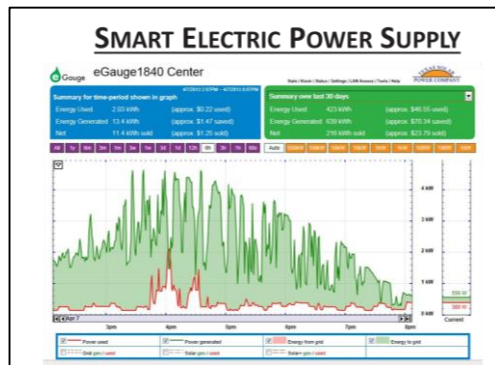
# OUR VISION

We are the leading **global advocate** for the **elimination** of death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards

# Knowledge & Information



# Knowledge & Information





# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges

- Changing world
- New threats & hazards
- Broken safety ecosystem



# Climate Change



# Urbanization

Cities around the world are growing rapidly.

**1.4 MILLION**  
*people/week*



Up to 1.4 million people per week  
are moving into urban areas  
around the globe.

**1 BILLION**  
*new dwellings*



To support these growing populations,  
nearly 1 billion new dwelling units  
will be built by 2050.

Source: The World Bank

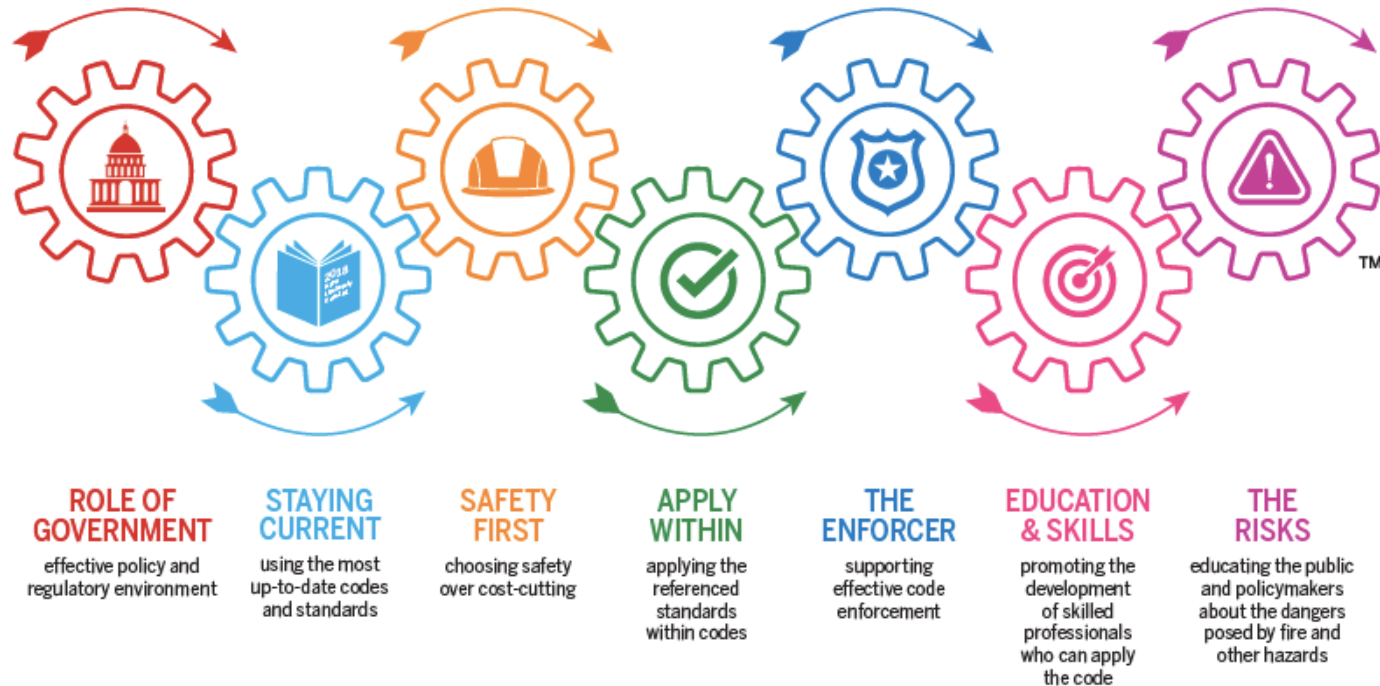


# Political barriers

- Focus on “business-friendly” environment
- Reduced funding/staffing for fire protection
- De-regulation
- Corruption



# The Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem





# The Codes and Standards Ecosystem







# Grenfell Inquiry Preliminary Findings

“This tragic incident should not have happened in our country in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”

“...it has become clear that the whole system of regulation, covering what is written down and the way it is enacted in practice, is not fit for purpose, having room for those who want to take shortcuts to do so.”

Dame Judith Hackitt

# Emerging issues

- Energy storage systems
- Exterior cladding flammability
- Impact of green building features on fire safety
- Alternative fuel vehicles
- Power-Over-Ethernet
- Tall wooden buildings
- Super-tall buildings





# Emerging Issues

- Changes in fire dynamics
- Occupational cancer in firefighters
- Terrorism/active shooter events
- “SMART” firefighting technologies



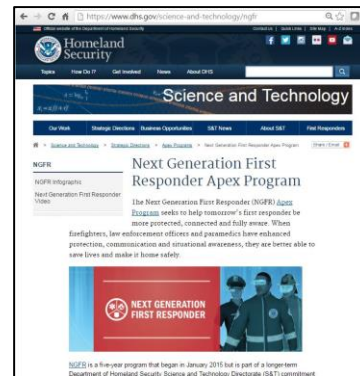
# Sensor Technology Developmental Gaps



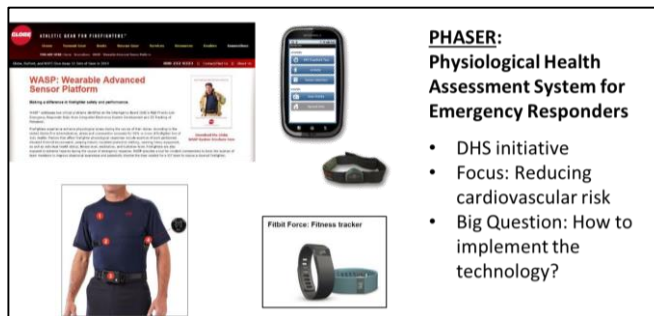
# Fire Fighter & Fire Unit Focus

## Examples:

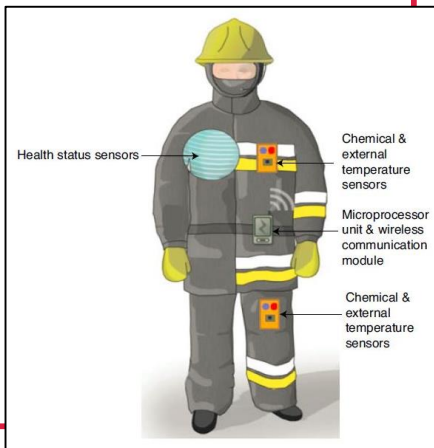
- Smart ESE & PPE
  - (e.g., DHS Next Gen First Responder, UNM Cyber ESE FF)
- Smart Physiological Monitoring
  - (e.g., WASP, PHASER, etc.)
- Smart Accountability/Tracking
  - (e.g., augmented reality, GLANSER)
- Other...



Source: Courtesy of Tannagram



Source: Courtesy of Globe Manufacturing, and Fitbit

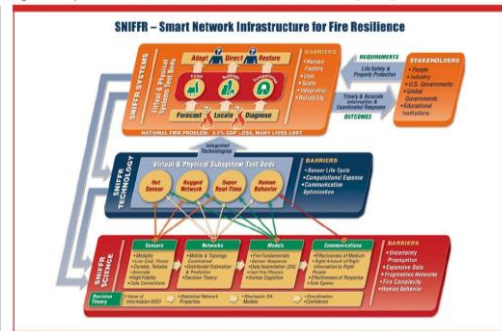
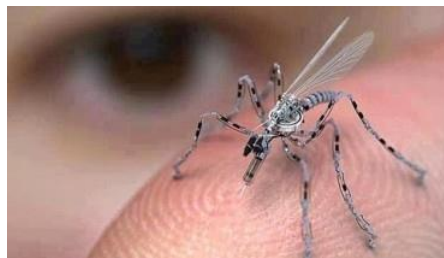
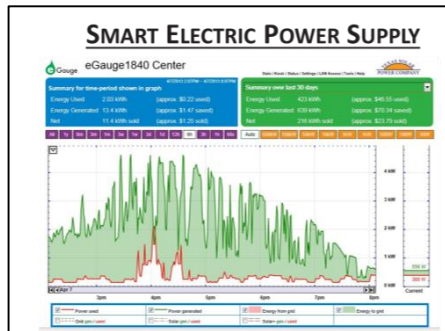




# Fire Ground & Emergency Scene Focus

## Examples:

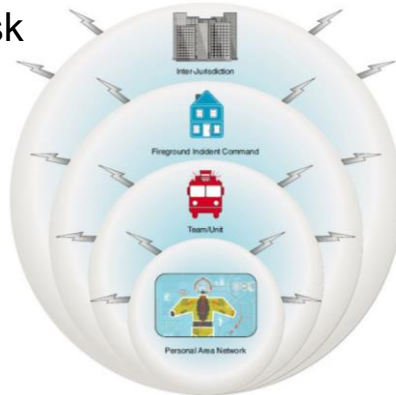
- Smart Cities
  - (e.g., Smart Cities Initiative)
- Smart Buildings
  - (e.g., Structure, Systems, Utilities, etc.)
- Smart Transportation
  - (e.g., Telematics, V2V, V2B, etc.)
- Robotics
  - DARPA Challenge
  - (e.g., Aerial, Terrestrial, Submersible)
- Other...



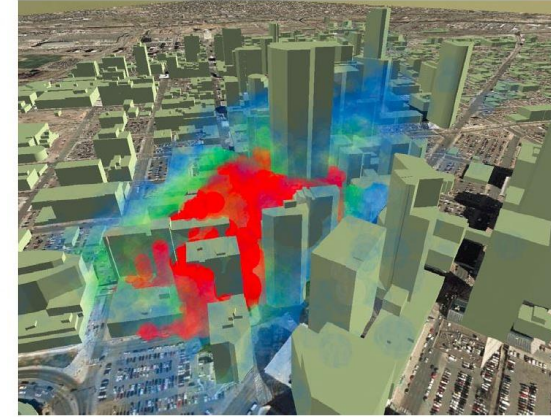
# Jurisdiction & Inter-Jurisdiction Focus

## Examples:

- Communications
  - (e.g., CAD, GIS, FirstNet, etc.)
- VOST (Virtual Operations Support Teams)
  - VOSG, Virtual EMA
  - (i.e., Social Media Task Group for IC)
- Other...
  - (e.g., CAD, GIS, FirstNet, etc.)



Source: Courtesy City of Phoenix Fire Department



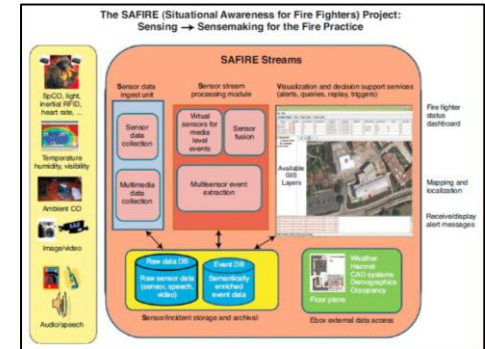
Source: Courtesy City of the National Center for Atmospheric Research



# Technology Development

- Key Observations
  - We do not necessarily need to invent or re-invent anything, but instead work with others who can and are doing this now (e.g., Smart Cities initiative).
  - We are rapidly solving the technological challenges, but the greater challenges that are surfacing are legal, social, cultural, etc. (e.g., privacy of data, confidentially, proprietary information, competition, and so on).

- Hardware
- Software
- Communications
- Other...



Source: Courtesy City of Frisco Texas



# Standardization

- Key Observations
  - The pace of new technology is out-pacing the standardization infrastructure to support it.
  - It's important to not slow the pace of technological innovation, reaping its virtues against set-backs.



## Examples of Standardization

- Example of Related NFPA Standards Activity: NFPA 950/951
  - NFPA 950: *Standard for Data Development & Exchange for the Fire Service*
  - NFPA 951: *Guide to Building and Utilizing Digital Information*
- Example of Other Related Standards Activity: ISO 37120
  - ISO 37120: Sustainable Development of Communities
  - Chapter 10: Fire and Emergency Response



## Other Examples:

- Electronic-based (ESE) standards
- Professional Qualification standards
- Aerial Robotics
- Others...

# Smart Fire Fighting

Project Report available on the Foundation  
and NIST websites

[www.nfpa.org/SmartFireFighting](http://www.nfpa.org/SmartFireFighting)

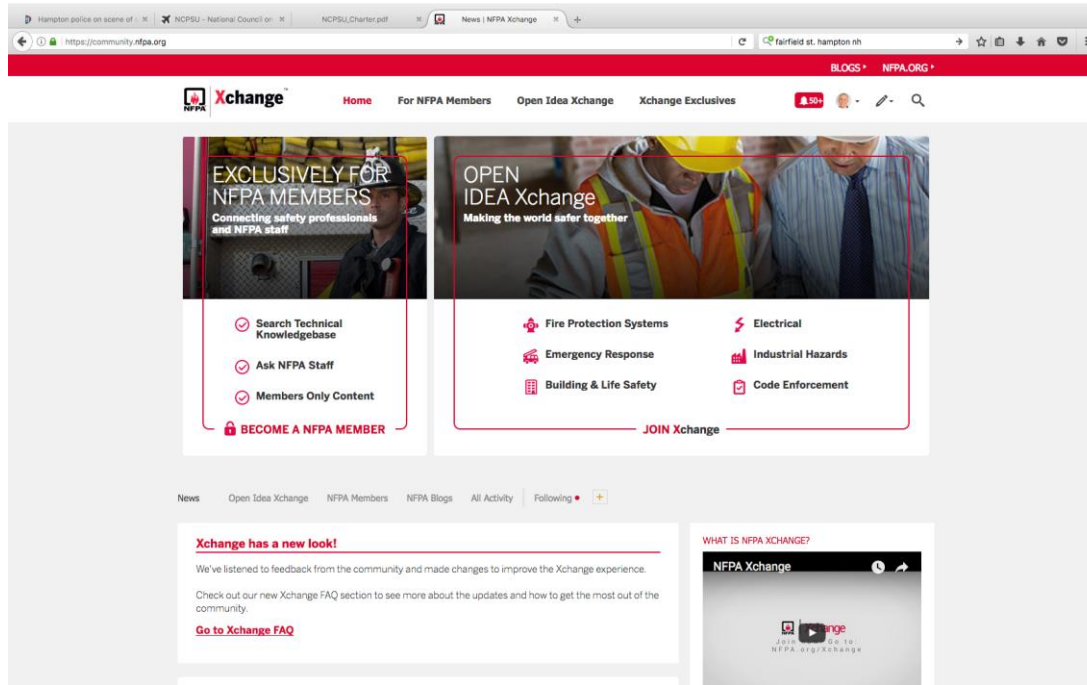
[www.nist.gov/news-  
events/news/2015/06/research-  
roadmap-traces-path-smart-fire-fighting](http://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2015/06/research-roadmap-traces-path-smart-fire-fighting)



# New Standards

- NFPA 1300: Community Risk Reduction
- NFPA 1700: Guide for Structural Firefighting
- NFPA 2400: sUAS Used for Public Safety Operations
- NFPA 3000: Preparedness & Response to Active Shooter and/or Hostile Events

# NFPA Xchange: community.nfpa.org





Donald P. Bliss  
[dbliss@nfpa.org](mailto:dbliss@nfpa.org)

[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)



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