



Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Public Protection Classification for Individual Properties, Part 1

No. FP-2015-10 March 10, 2015

Learning Objective: The student will learn about Public Protection Classification (PPC™) that applies to specific Individual Properties.

The needed fire flow (NFF) is one of the factors required to develop the PPC for a Fire Protection Area (FPA). Most typical residential and commercial buildings have an NFF of 3,500 gallons per minute (gpm) or less. Certain commercial and industrial properties that are not protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems can have a higher NFF based on their construction and occupancy features. Properties with an NFF greater than 3,500 gpm are termed "Individual Properties" by the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). These Individual Properties are not considered when developing the PPC for the FPA and have their own PPC rating.

Individual Properties typically represent a higher risk to the city and the insurance industry. The FSRS recognizes this risk and develops the PPC for these Individual Properties. The primary objective of the Individual Property analyses is to examine large risks relative to the PPC established for the FPA. The PPC for an Individual Property can be different, but never better, than the PPC of the FPA in which it is located.

The presence of higher risks does not necessarily indicate that a fire department's resources need to be increased to cope with higher risks. Individual Property PPC is developed based on the concept that an FPA could supplement its resources by sharing the services of neighboring FPAs through automatic-aid and outside-aid agreements.

The following are the minimum requirements for developing the PPC for Individual Properties. The fire flow duration for Individual Properties is at least four hours.

Fire Department Companies

The number of engine and ladder companies is determined based on the Individual Property's NFF. For example, if the NFF of a property is determined to be 8,000 gpm, then eight engine companies and three ladder companies are required by the FSRS. Similarly, there are specific engine and ladder company requirements based on the NFF between 4,000 gpm and 12,000 gpm.

The FSRS assigns certain credit points for each creditable engine, ladder and engine-ladder company responding on initial alarm. Credit is also available for automatic-aid engine and ladder companies responding on first alarm within 5 road miles of an FPA boundary. Reserve apparatus are creditable under certain conditions. Outside-aid engine and ladder companies are also creditable when responding within 15 road miles of the FPA boundaries. All the apparatus that respond must meet the minimum equipment criteria of the FSRS.

A minimum level of 40 percent adequacy is needed for each pumper, ladder truck and engine-ladder truck, taking into consideration the pumping capacity, hose quantity, equipment and ladders as evaluated by the new FSRS. The 1980 FSRS required at least 35 percent adequacy.

The National Fire Academy's course information and registration is available at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/index.shtm>.