

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Branch of Structural Fire  
Division of Fire and Aviation



# Structural Fire Program Strategic Plan

2017 - 2022



## Structural Fire Program Mission

*The mission of the NPS Structural Fire Program is “to prevent the loss of life and property from the adverse effects of structural fire by maintaining high quality fire prevention, education, and suppression programs.”*



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2017 - 2022

National Park Service Branch of Structural Fire  
Boise, Idaho

Produced by the Division of Fire and Aviation  
National Park Service

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Washington, DC

**Cover image: Structure fire  
at Big Horn Canyon National  
Recreation Area 2016. NPS  
photo.**

**Facing page: NPS structural  
firefighters respond to a vehicle  
fire in Death Valley National  
Park. NPS photo.**

# Purpose of the Structural Fire Program Strategic Plan

The National Park Service (NPS) has the challenge and responsibility of preserving and protecting human life and the resources entrusted to its management.

These resources include 27,000 structures, many of which are historic, and the largest system of museums in the world, holding more than 48 million objects and specimens and 79,000 linear feet of archives.

The Structural Fire Program strives to prevent structural fires by working collaboratively with regional structural fire managers (RSFMs), facilities managers, cultural resources managers, commercial services managers, park structural fire coordinators

(PSFCs), and all NPS employees and partners to appropriately address structural fire protection and prevention needs.

Looking back over the past century of stewardship, many lessons have been learned from our structural fires, some of which are illustrated in this document. Looking forward, this strategic plan will provide the vision and philosophy to guide the Structural Fire Program during the next five years in making decisions and developing priorities, budgets, and work plans.

The National Park Service is entrusted with protecting 27,000 structures, including the iconic Gateway Arch. NPS photo.



# Strategic Goal 1 - Promote Safety and Prevent Loss

Objective: Strive for no injuries or fatalities to employees, partners, and visitors and minimize the damage or loss of NPS structures and resources due to a structural fire.

## CORE STRATEGIES

1.1 Identify and mitigate existing and emerging structural fire safety issues.

1.2 Standardize the NPS structural fire suppression program to ensure responder safety and reduce agency risk.

1.3 Develop and implement management systems to ensure all fire protection systems are inspected, tested, and maintained in collaboration with Facilities Management.

1.4 Ensure all NPS units have appropriate structural fire response.

1.5 Develop standardized processes to ensure all construction projects are in compliance with building and fire codes.

1.6 Ensure parks complete required annual fire and life safety building inspections.

1.7 Ensure fire protection condition assessments (FPCAs) are completed and identified deficiencies are addressed for all NPS buildings.

1.8 Develop and implement management systems to ensure parks develop, maintain, and implement effective structural fire management plans (SFMPs).

The loss of cultural resources from a fire at Flight 93 National Memorial in 2014 is a reminder of the significant and irreplaceable artifacts that the NPS is entrusted to protect. NPS photo.



## Strategic Goal 2 - Train and Prepare

Objective: Ensure NPS employees, partners, and concessionaires are provided the knowledge, skills, and resources to carry out their structural fire duties and responsibilities.

### CORE STRATEGIES

2.1 Deliver high quality training programs.

2.2 Align training curriculum with third party accreditation to assure compliance with nationally recognized standards (e.g. Pro Board).

2.3 Assess the service's structural fire training needs.

2.4 Develop specialty courses and programs to support park needs and program emphasis areas.

2.5 Track certifications and recertifications.

2.6 Identify and apply emerging and cost effective technologies to deliver training.

A duplex fire at Big Hole National Battlefield exemplifies the need for proper communication and preparedness with local fire departments. NPS photo.



# Strategic Goal 3 - Ensure Structural Fire Policy Compliance

Objective: Provide direction and oversight in structural fire program management to internal and external stakeholders.

## CORE STRATEGIES

3.1 Review and update agency program policy statements, documents, and manuals to ensure they reflect the latest codes, standards, and technologies.

3.2 Ensure that all NPS and agency recognized structural firefighters meet agency standards for structural fire responders.

3.3 Collaborate with Facilities Management to ensure compliance with NPS policies for structural fire safety.

3.4 Collaborate with Commercial Services programs to ensure compliance with NPS policies for structural fire safety.

3.5 Collaborate with Cultural Resources to ensure compliance with NPS policies for structural fire safety.

3.6 Execute program review processes that places accountability at the core of the Structural Fire Program.

Two structure fires in The Wayside: Home of Authors, a historic home in Minute Man National Historical Park, emphasizes the importance of having current aid agreements with local fire departments and an effective hot work program. NPS photo.



# Strategic Goal 4 - Communicate and Educate

Objective: Maintain a progressive and consistent communication and education campaign that will promote cultural and behavioral change towards structural fire protection and prevention.

## CORE STRATEGIES

4.1 Develop the tools and information needed to educate all NPS employees and partners about their roles in preventing structure fires.

4.2 Target national and park leadership with relevant fire and life safety information to further awareness and effect change.

4.3 Establish a leadership role that fosters the sharing of ideas and skills to protect cultural resources worldwide from structural fire.

4.4 Explore the need to expand current fire protection and prevention outreach to target new audiences.

Due to preparation of pre-incident plans, firefighter training, and proper inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire alarms systems, a dormitory at Colter Bay Village in Grand Teton National Park was saved from a structural fire in 2015. NPS photo.





# Implementation and Monitoring

Implementation of the Structural Fire Program Strategic Plan will be accomplished by developing and prioritizing key tasks. Key tasks are the action items that become the basis of the program's annual work plan and budget.

Monitoring and documentation of successes and effectiveness will occur annually by the national office with input from the regions. This will allow for the adjustment of program priorities at the national and regional levels.

A comprehensive review and update of this strategic plan will occur every 5 years.



Structural firefighter students develop their skills during live fire training at the NPS National Fire Academy, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. NPS photo.

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3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, ID 83705