



# THE FIRE PROTECTION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Issued: February 2014

## The 2014-2019 Research Priorities for the Fire Protection Research Foundation

In 2008 the Fire Protection Research Foundation developed its first strategic research agenda. The goal was to identify key emerging challenges for NFPA standards and how we might structure ourselves to develop research information to help address those challenges. The past five years have brought many challenges to fire safety in the built environment. Over the past twelve months, we have convened a series of meetings to learn from members of NFPA technical committees, staff, and leadership about the current strategic issues likely to affect future fire safety.

The Foundation staff and leadership have reviewed this input to determine how it should shape our near-term research priorities. Their selection as our current focus took into account: societal impact; relevance to the NFPA mission and fire safety goals of safety to life, property, and business continuity; the Foundation's unique qualifications as an organization; and stakeholder support.

The priorities are:

- **Residential**: Expanding our focus to include developing strategies to reduce residential fire losses
- **Social Demographics**: Developing fire safety strategies for changing social demographics
- **Sustainability/Resiliency**: Developing fire safety strategies for sustainable, resilient communities
- **Emerging Technologies**: Developing guidance for fire fighter tactics to adapt to emerging technologies and strategies
- **Cyber Physical System**: Facilitating research, development and use of cyber physical systems and integrated technology/systems for fire safety
- **Health and Safety Cultures**: Exploring strategies to integrate fire safety into emerging health and safety cultures
- **Fire Protection Systems**: Assessing the factors that impact the effectiveness of fire protection systems

Over the next five years, we will use this strategy to guide us as we further define specific research needs, projects, and stakeholders. The Foundation will revisit the agenda periodically to ensure that it adequately addresses the near horizon to support NFPA's mission.