

## FIRE OPERATIONS

# Minimum staffing for fire suppression services

NFPA 1710 outlines the following minimum requirements for staffing [fire suppression](#) *The activities involved in controlling and extinguishing fires.* services (based upon operations for a 2000 square-foot, two-story, single-family occupancy with no basement, exposures or unusual hazards):

- A minimum of four fire fighters per [engine company](#) *Fire companies whose primary functions are to pump and deliver water and perform basic fire fighting at fires, including search and rescue.* or [truck company](#) *Fire companies whose primary functions are to perform the variety of services associated with truck work, such as forcible entry, ventilation, search and rescue, aerial operations for water delivery and rescue, utility control, illumination, overhaul, and salvage work.* (§ 5.2.2.1.1).
- [Quint apparatus](#) *A fire department emergency vehicle with a permanently mounted fire pump, a water tank, a hose storage area, an aerial device with a permanently mounted waterway, and a complement of ground ladders.* staffed as an engine or truck company (four fire fighters) or be staffed with additional personnel to perform multiple engine/truck company tasks (§ 5.2.2.4).
- [Supervisory Chief Officers](#) *A member whose responsibility is to assume command through a formalized transfer of command process and to allow company officers to directly supervise personnel assigned to them.* are required to respond as part of all full alarm incidents (§ 5.2.1.2.3).

The Standard sets requirements for the number of personnel required per [company](#) *A group of members: (1) Under the direct supervision of an officer; (2) Trained and equipped to perform assigned tasks; (3) Usually organized and identified as engine companies, ladder companies, rescue companies, squad companies, or multi-functional companies; (4) Operating with one piece of fire apparatus (engine, ladder truck, elevating platform, quint, rescue, squad, ambulance) except where multiple apparatus are assigned that are dispatched and arrive together, continuously operate together, and are managed by a single company officer; (5) arriving at the incident scene on fire apparatus., not per [apparatus](#) *A motor-driven vehicle or group of vehicles designed and constructed for the purpose of fighting fires..* Therefore, if a company is composed of two or more engines, it can staff each engine with two personnel, as long as the company contains a minimum of four personnel continually operating together (§ A.3.3.8). Since most [jurisdictions](#) *The department's territorial range of authority as provided by the local government.* deploy one engine or truck per company, most jurisdictions must staff each engine or truck with a minimum of four personnel.*

Note that the above criteria applies to low hazard situations in single-family occupancies as described above. In jurisdictions with tactical hazards, high hazard occupancies, high incident frequencies, or geographical restrictions, companies must be staffed with a minimum of five or six on-duty members (§ 5.2.2.1.2). The number of additional fire fighters above four is predicated on the specific duties to be accomplished at these high hazard locations as well as the time requirements associated with initiating these tasks.