

Initial full alarm assignment requirements

NFPA 1710 indicates that a fire department shall have the capability to deploy an [initial full alarm assignment](#) *Those personnel, equipment, and resources ordinarily dispatched upon notification of a structural fire.* consisting of between 15 and 17 personnel, depending on if an aerial is used, and/or if two engines are being used to provide a continuous water supply.

The standard arrives at the 15-17 personnel minimum for an initial full alarm assignment using the following requirements (§ 5.2.3.2.2, unless otherwise noted):

- An [Incident Commander](#) *The fire department member in overall command of an emergency incident.* shall be present outside of the hazard area to provide overall coordination and direction. A [Staff Aide](#) *A fire fighter or fire officer assigned to a supervisory chief officer to assist with the logistical, tactical, and accountability functions of incident, division, or sector command.* is required to assist with incident management.
- An uninterrupted water supply at 400 gpm for 30 minutes shall be established. An operator is required to remain with each fire [apparatus](#) *A motor-driven vehicle or group of vehicles designed and constructed for the purpose of fighting fires.* and ensure uninterrupted water flow.
- The water flow application rate shall be 300 gpm from two handlines, an attack line and a back-up line with a minimum of 100 gpm each. Each line shall be operated by a minimum of two personnel.
- One support person shall be provided for each handline for hydrant hookup, line lays, utility control and [forcible entry](#) *Techniques used by fire personnel to gain entry into buildings, vehicles, aircraft, or other areas of confinement when normal means of entry are locked or blocked..*
- A minimum of one Search and Rescue Team consisting of two personnel shall be present.
- A minimum of one Ventilation Team consisting of two personnel shall be present.
- If an aerial device is used, one person shall serve as an aerial operator.
- An [Initial Rapid Intervention Crew \(IRIC\)](#) *Two members of the initial attack crew who are assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members.* consisting of two personnel shall be present. One IRIC member may be a support person re-assigned to the team at the scene.
- A Safety Officer is required when significant risks to fire fighters are present. He or she will ensure that a health and safety system is established (§ 5.2.3.3.3).
- The fire department must be able to provide personnel and services for additional alarm assignments when needed (§ 5.2.3.3.1).

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