

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 149: 1916 (NFPA RESOLUTIONS)

By Richard Schulte

Perhaps nothing provides a better perspective on the fire safety issues in 1916 than the Resolutions proposed and adopted by the National Fire Protection Association at its twentieth Annual Meeting held in Chicago. The following is a transcript of the Resolution proposals and the discussion regarding these proposals:

“The President: The next order of business is the report of the Committee on Resolutions. This report will be presented by former President H. L. Phillips of Hartford. (Applause)”

Mr. Phillips (Reads):

Resolutions, Annual Meeting 1916

*The National Fire Protection Association, assembled in Chicago for its twentieth annual meeting, **calls attention to the disastrous fires of the past few months which destroyed whole sections of cities in the South** and elsewhere and which further emphasize the need for better building construction and the avoidance of wooden shingle roofs and other combustible materials in the exterior of buildings.*

The Association heartily commends the growing movement for city planning as likely to produce better conditions as to building heights and congested areas, and provide the open spaces and broad avenues, which, beside their human and esthetic values, are excellent checks to sweeping fires.

In its warfare against the needless sacrifice of human lives and property by fire the Association advocates the following measures:

- 1. The adoption by municipalities of the Standard Building Code of the National Board of Fire Underwriters to the end that fire resistive building construction may be encouraged, the use of in flammable roof coverings prohibited, adequate exit facilities from buildings assured, and interiors so designed and fire-stopped as to make easy the extinguishment of fires therein.*

*Vice-President Wiederhold: Mr. President, it seems to me that the benefits derived by the public from the work of the National Board of Fire Underwriters and the material and moral support the latter has always accorded to the National Fire Protection Association justifies the prominent mention made of its work in this resolution. It is quite possible that a great many of our members, especially those who do not come in direct contact with the field work of our Association, have no conception of the amount of labor and expense involved in the preparation of **this Standard Building Code. The first edition was issued in 1905, after four years of hard work on the part of the committee appointed for that purpose.** Between 1905 and 1915 the National Board freely distributed 20,000 copies of that Code, at a cost of some \$7,000. That was all done without one cent of expense to the Association. In 1915, under the direction of our loyal member Professor Woolson, after several years of further hard labor, the Code was revised, and I am told there have been 3,500 copies of this revised Code already gratuitously distributed. Within the past year some four technical colleges have adopted this Code as a textbook, and in twenty other educational institutions it is being used in classes. It seems to me considering its great value it is incumbent upon each and every one of us who has any influence in the city or town in which he may reside to further to the utmost the adoption of this Code. It is recognized as the standard, and covers all the various items which the Resolutions enumerate, such as enclosures, fire walls, etc., and **I do not think too much stress can be laid upon the importance of this great effort toward standardization.** (Applause)*

The President: I will say for the information of the convention that Mr. Phillips will read the different paragraphs of the Resolutions, and will pause after each one for the purpose of permitting remarks. Any member is invited to participate. Are there any further remarks on number one?

Mr. S. G. Webb (Gypsum Industries Association): As the representative of a member, one of the industries of the country, I wish to commend the remarks that Mr. Wiederhold has just made. I believe the distribution of this splendid Building Code would have been very much greater than the 3,500 copies cited had the National Board felt that it had sufficient copies to distribute to everybody requesting it. I know myself of requests for a much larger number of copies than could possibly be furnished. I am very glad indeed to endorse Vice-President Wiederhold's suggestion.

The President: If there are no further remarks we will proceed.

Mr. Phillips (reading):

2. The adoption by all states of minimum building requirements for the protection of State and County hospitals, asylums and similar institutions outside city limits and of small communities in which the establishment and enforcement of a building code is impracticable.

The President: Any remarks?

Mr. Phillips (reading):

3. The enactment by each state of the Fire Marshal law advocated by the Fire Marshals' Association of North America to the end that official investigation may be made of the causes of all fires, preventable fires may be eliminated by public education, and the crime of arson stamped out.

The President: Any remarks?

Fire Marshal Walter H. Bennett, Illinois, (President Fire Marshals' Association of North America): I feel great pleasure in having the opportunity of saying a word in reference to this plank in the Association's platform. I undertake to say that if this platform can be widely adopted and put into execution it will result in an immediate and salutary lessening of preventable fires. The Fire Marshal's Association of North America is intensely interested, of course, in its own work, having adopted, promulgated and put into effect in several of the commonwealths of this country this law to which the resolutions refer. I know of no organization, perhaps, that can better promote the establishment of this sane law than this Association assembled here to-day. The President in his admirable address, said that we must lead up to this great fire prevention work through the channel of education. I believe the fire marshals' department of the state government offers one of the strongest influences for raising the public intelligence to that educational plane at which it will recognize preventable fire loss. *New light is dawning in this country of ours on this question of fire prevention, and I am strong for the theory of public education.* As to the crime of arson, I believe the influence of the State Fire Marshal's departments in the states having this office, has resulted in largely lessening the loss through deliberate incendiarism. But, my fellow members, that is a small amount of the sum total. The great amount of loss is not from the crime of arson, but is due to the negligence and carelessness of the people; and if through the agency of the State Fire Marshal's department the people can be educated to a realizing sense of their individual responsibility in this matter, I believe we will ultimately obtain that thing we are seeking. (Applause)

The President: Any further remarks on this paragraph?

Mr. F. E. Cabot, (Boston Board of Fire Underwriters): I want to add one word to what Fire Marshal Bennett has said, as coming from a state in which we tried state fire marshals but were not allowed long to have them. We have the men under another department but without the work, and I can assure you, gentlemen, I stand here before you ashamed of the State of Massachusetts! We have the worst present condition of affairs in this respect I know of; the condition which sometime has confronted every state, more or less. Arson recently ran riot in our midst, and the state authorities would not move in the matter until compelled by newspaper publicity. As for ignorance, I am sure that with all of the fire prevention publications Massachusetts produces, we are locally most ignorant on the subject of fires. (Laughter and applause)

Captain J. J. Conway (Cincinnati Salvage Corps): I want to follow with a word on the fire marshals' work because I have been paying a great deal of attention to this branch of the subject. **Enacting statutes and letting them lie dead will be of little service to us.** The trouble is we cannot enforce the law we have because of lack of public sentiment back of it, and to get that public sentiment we must create a local organization to take up the education of each particular community. In order to carry our fire prevention work successfully in Cincinnati, we took in all the elements that go with it – health, the beautifying of our city, and everything of that kind. In that way we brought in the women's clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, the business men's association, the Rotary Club, and every organization of consequence in our city, and they are all now interested in what we call a "Clean-up and Paint-up" Campaign. We reduced our local fire losses last year for Hamilton County. If the city, which is under protection, was considered by itself, we could show a loss of less than fifteen per cent. One-third of the fires that have occurred in our town were of origin other than what they should have been. (Laughter). Yet not more than \$8,000 of our loss was through men deliberately applying the match to defraud the insurance companies. One bookkeeper went wrong, and in order to conceal his defalcation he caused a fire loss of \$16,000. One-third of our loss was due to the attempt to conceal theft. We traced it right to the people who went in to certain property for the purpose of stealing stuff. This caused a loss of over \$100,000 out of \$300,000. We cannot cure such losses by inspection or construction. Public sentiment must be aroused to vigorously prosecute such crimes. It is necessary to get the people to realize what fire waste means, how important it is, and what portion of it they pay; **and dissipate the idea that fire protection effort is designed to protect the insurance companies.** That is what the majority of people think we are doing today—protecting the insurance companies. When they realize that they pay their proportion of the fire loss they will regard our efforts with more intelligence. The greatest help we have had at times has come from the organized women's clubs of Cincinnati. They have been able to obtain results that we could not bring about. Until we create a better public sentiment our fire marshals will be handicapped in getting convictions after they get the evidence. (Applause)

Mr. Phillips (reading):

4. *The adoption of the Association's suggested ordinance providing for the systematic inspection of all buildings by city fire marshals or local firemen to insure the vigorous enforcement of rules for cleanliness, good housekeeping, and the maintenance of safe and unobstructed exits, fire-fighting apparatus and other protective devices.*

Mr. Powell Evans (Chairman Fire Prevention Committee, National Chamber of Commerce): I do not think there is any question that the policy of firemen's inspection service has already become a feature of this country's fire prevention activity, and all the people who know anything about this subject have come to believe that the daily method of living in a building is about half of the whole problem. Good or bad housekeeping methods produce or cut off about half of all fires. The greatest point in practice is to extend first the area in which this policy obtains, second, the scope of the work in this area, and third, its quality.

The first battle is to take those cities as examples that have won out by this policy, and get others to adopt it. That means the geographical extension of this work.

The second is to extend the scope of the work; and in that respect it seems to me the most important new step is to extend this inspection to residences as well as business structures. There seems to be a feeling that when a fireman goes into a residence he is intruding, or trespassing upon individual right, and so the politicians in the city governments have somewhat dodged this issue. But if it were temperately and diplomatically done I believe the householder would welcome it. We must remember that the average conditions in the business house are the same as the average conditions in the home, and if we could have this educational work in the home carried out into the business sections we would not only cut off the losses involved in the home fires, but we would produce better conditions in the congested areas.

As to the quality of this work, there exists the very important problem of in some way educating more thoroughly the men of the large cities who do this work, the fire fighting force, because most cities cannot afford both a fire fighting force and a fire prevention force.

The whole movement for fire protection, the technique of this work, has traveled much faster than the education of the fire fighting forces. Change in the fire fighting forces is very slow. Tradition and habit govern them. The influx of new men with modern ideas in power is very slow, and there has never yet been any intimate touch between the fire fighting force and this expert body. When the time comes I hope that we will consider creating a special membership class in this Association if need be at the cost of the other classes, so as to let the firemen in even at no financial gain to the Association. (Applause)

Mr. Phillips (reading):

5. The enactment of ordinances similar to that of Cleveland, Ohio, fixing the cost of extinguishing preventable fires upon citizens disregarding fire prevention orders, and a more general legal recognition of the common law principle of personal liability for damage resulting from fires due to carelessness or neglect.

Mr. Paul A. Colwell (Insurance Association of Providence): I would like to bring out a thought contained in this paragraph. If I should do certain unlawful acts or if I neglect to do certain specified acts I must expect to suffer the consequences and pay the fine that may be prescribed. If I therefore refuse reasonably to protect my property as I have been directed to do by those in authority, I should certainly expect to pay the cost of extinguishing any fire brought about by causes easily prevented had I done what I was told to do by those in authority. I should be forced to pay what you might call a fine, – the cost to the city of using the fire department, water service and so forth, because I have endangered the community by allowing needless hazardous conditions to exist on my premises. I should pay the price of contempt of authority, just the same as, should I disobey the mandate of a court, I would be obliged to pay a fine for contempt of court. It seems to me the offence is in the same class. We punish citizens who disobey laws that are calculated to benefit society in general. Certainly a man who has been endangered by a preventable fire on the premises of a careless neighbor should be as much subject to redress from that careless neighbor as if the latter had wantonly broken in his show windows or done some other unlawful act. It seems to me if ordinances like these recommended should be generally adopted we would see a marked reduction in the fire waste, and as leaders in the campaign of public education we should strive earnestly for the adoption of such ordinances. I would heartily endorse this item in the resolutions. (Applause)

The President: Are there any further remarks on this subject?

Mr. Phillips (reading):

6. *The wider general use of the automatic sprinkler as a fire extinguishing agent and life saver and the more general adoption of the fire wall or fire exit partition as an important life saving exit facility.*

Mr. H. W. Forster (Independence Inspection Bureau): *If I may be permitted to say a brief word in favor of that paragraph, I would like to say this: There has been some feeling that to secure safety we should select either the automatic sprinkler as a panacea to cure all our ills or troubles, or the division wall. The Committee on Safety to Life went on record a few years ago, and will again today, as endorsing most heartily the sprinkler as a life saver. The Committee on Safety to Life believes also very heartily in the division wall or walls as a means of securing safety for employe[e]s. If the situation is important and large enough, the Committee favors both, and I am glad to see that these two important items of safety are coupled together by the word "and" rather than by the word "or". (Applause)*

Mr. Phillips (reading):

7. *A careful study of the technical surveys of cities made by the engineers of the Committee on Fire Prevention of the National Board of Fire Underwriters covering the items of water supplies, their adequacy and reliability, fire department efficiency, fire alarm systems and conflagration hazards; and of the possibility of co-operation among neighboring cities through mutual aid and the standardization of hose couplings.*

Mr. Cabot: *Mr. Chairman, my thought on reading these resolutions took a good deal the course of Mr. Wiederhold's and that of several other gentlemen speaking on these resolutions—education. I know, and you know, Mr. President, and twenty-five or thirty other men in this room know the work which the engineers of the National Board have done. We know that it is careful work; work which is founded on real experience; work which, if understood by the public, would be supported by the public. But it has been heretofore very little known by the public. Gentlemen, I think one of the serious dangers of this Association is that we may forget that we are a very, very small fraction of the people of this country. We are so familiar with one phase or another of this enormous work that we feel sure that everybody is interested in it in some form or other. And so they are, when they know. But I venture to say that if you go to the Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce or any other local organization that has in mind the wellbeing of the city in which it is organized, and you ask about the report of the National Board of Fire Underwriters on the fire protection of that city, you will find only a secretary or perhaps a chairman who knows about that report. I speak from experience, because I had occasion five years ago to explain what one of these reports meant to our Chamber of Commerce in Boston, and less than six months ago the change in the personnel of certain committees had been so great that so far as I could find out there was only one man in the whole Chamber who had ever heard that the National Board made reports or had anybody who*

could make reports, or knew anything whatever about the subject of fire prevention. While we are on the job of educating the public—and that is the job of this Association—let us not forget to impress upon city authorities the fact that there are such reports, that they are very good reports, that they need them very much, and that they can be had without cost to their city. (Applause)

The President: The Chair desires to say a word on this subject. A copy of one of these reports prepared by the National Board of Fire Underwriters fell into his hands about five years ago. He found it extremely interesting reading, full of valuable suggestions, and from that time on the Chair has been on the mailing list of the National Board and has received a copy of every report issued. In turn he has sent to the National Board a list of four or five prominent business men and bankers in every place reported on. A copy of the report has been sent to these men, and I have written them a personal letter calling attention to the contents of the report and urging them, as individuals interested in the welfare of their city, to read it carefully and to use their influence toward having its recommendations adopted. I believe it has produced some very good results. I know that in some instances the gentlemen addressed have taken the report to their Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce or Business Men's Association, and it has led to discussion and in some instances such action has actually thrown behind the Underwriters' report the influence of the business interests in the cities covered by that report. I think if there were a general extension of this work it would be productive of a great deal of beneficial education. (Applause)

Mr. J. E. Lyons (Ohio State Fire Prevention Association): I wish to speak of the possible co-operation of cities through mutual aid by the standardization of hose couplings. This is a proposition the Association has wrestled with for a great number of years, and I would like to tell the members what the Ohio State Fire Prevention Association has done along this line. Mr. F. M. Griswold, a member who you know has been identified with the subject of standardization of hose couplings, visited Columbus, Ohio, and after a talk with the fire chief convinced him that the hose couplings should be made to conform to the national standard. That was done, and around Columbus, Ohio, a circle was drawn with a radius of fifty-five miles, and the fire chiefs of cities within that circle were invited to come to Columbus and hear something that would interest them. Before being invited, a pamphlet was sent to each mayor, each fire chief, and each Chamber of Commerce. This pamphlet pointed out the need of the correction of the evil of conflicting types of hose couplings. When the chiefs arrived it was with surprise that they learned that in case of conflagrations in many cases they could not receive help from adjoining towns, and it did not take long for them to organize a co-operative association known as the Central Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, the object of which was to remove the evil of the non-standard hose couplings and hydrant outlets. After that the state was divided into sections, certain districts were allotted to certain men to work upon.

The next movement was around Toledo. But here we ran into adverse political conditions. However, we transferred our affections to another part of the state, and about seven months later around East Liverpool a circle was drawn taking in towns in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the same method pursued in sending out literature to the fire chiefs, resulted on the 19th day of March in forming the second co-operative fire chiefs' association, known as the Tri-State.

Again, we found that the firemen in the smaller communities were not aware of the differences in hose couplings, and from our experience it has dawned upon us that lack of knowledge on the part of business men is the reason no greater national progress has been made in this direction.

We are now soliciting aid through the chambers of commerce. The little pamphlet we have, "the pink colored Bible;" as we call it in Ohio, has been put into everybody's hands whom we believed it would do any good to enlighten. In it we have condensed the methods pertaining to standardization and also the means of applying the tap and die. It means that one and one make two. It is written so that anyone who glances at the page can measure his couplings and know what to do. And we find that this is getting results.

Around Cleveland the matter was taken up by one of our members with the Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber thought so well of it that it issued a special pamphlet endorsed by the Board of Directors, which was sent to each one of the members. This pamphlet outlined the differences in sizes, and the reason why they should be standardized and we believe that in a short time Cleveland and its surrounding towns will have an organization of fire chiefs backed by the business interests, and that the desired results will be accomplished there also.

As to the City of Cincinnati, we have just heard the voice of Captain Conway on this floor. Captain Conway tackled this proposition with the result that the entire city of Cincinnati was changed to the National Standard couplings and hydrant outlets. That means that each town surrounding Cincinnati depending upon it for help, including some of the towns in Kentucky, will be forced to come to the National Standard.

In the city of Zanesville the fire chief joined the first organization of chiefs formed. When he asked permission to actually satisfy himself that the words in our book were true the Zanesville waterworks superintendent informed him that he feared he might ruin one of the couplings in his proposed experiment. When that information came to our association we visited Zanesville and found that the Rotary Club was meeting that day at noon. The secretary was approached, and when the matter was outlined to him and what it meant to Zanesville and the public safety, he invited one of our members to speak, with the result that a committee was appointed to investigate the attitude of the superintendent of the waterworks on such an important

thing. We sincerely trust that in the next few years—it will take a few years to do it—Mr. Griswold's work may be realized. It was just ten years after the adoption of the National Standard that this first co-operative fire chiefs' effort was started in Ohio. I believe that at the time the National Standard was adopted someone said to Mr. Griswold, "If you accomplish anything in twenty-five years you will be going some." Still, we believe in Ohio that if each state will take up this work it can be accomplished, and accomplished easily. There is no excuse for allowing hose coupling conditions to remain as they are. (Applause.)

Mr. Phillips (reading):

8. The adoption of the Association's suggested laws and ordinances for state and municipal regulation of the transportation, storage and use of inflammable liquids and explosives.

Mr. Gorham Dana (Manager Underwriters' Bureau of New England): Mr. Chairman, this seems to me a most timely proposition. **The use of gasoline is increasing enormously, as everyone knows, in spite of its high cost.** The subject of explosives is also now before this country as never before. Enormous quantities are being made and shipped to foreign countries. The fires from these sources are increasing at an alarming extent. **Fortunately, we have not yet been drawn into the European war, but we seem pretty near it.** While not at war our streets are being mined almost as the trenches abroad are mined. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, I understand, is mined quite as effectually as the trenches abroad are mined, although with gasoline tanks, and it only awaits the right conditions for a demonstration. This gasoline distribution also affects the sewers of the cities. A great deal of gasoline escapes into the sewers and is mining the streets in that way. I have a report here from Detroit which reads as follows: "March 12, 1916. A gasoline tank car which stood on a railroad track in the city of Detroit commenced to leak. About 9,000 gallons escaped from the car into a sewer and became ignited from some cause or other. The upheaval was terrific. Columns of oil in some places three feet thick were hurled into the air. Sewer covers were blown 150 feet. Sewers were torn up for two miles, water mains broken, windows smashed, buildings rocked, and a panic created among the residents. The damage that ensued is estimated at \$500,000." The United States government has very effective rules regulating the transportation of explosives and combustibles from state to state. But the states in most cases are lax in this matter. Therefore, it behooves this Association, particularly at this time, to use its best efforts to improve these conditions. (Applause.)

Mr. Phillips (reading):

9. The universal adoption and use of the safety match and **legislation prohibiting smoking** in all parts of factories, industrial and mercantile buildings except in such fireproof rooms as may be especially approved for the purpose by fire departments.

Past-President Robert D. Kohn (American Institute of Architects): In commending that paragraph I wish to urge particularly the latter part of it. I was about to light my pipe before I got up, but in speaking on the resolution it would hardly be appropriate for the moment. (Laughter.) As a matter of fact, we know what serious damage has been done, and how many lives have been lost through smoking in factories, and some states have passed laws absolutely prohibiting smoking in factories. Complete prohibition has been found pretty difficult to enforce and New York has amended the state factory law so as to permit smoking in fireproof rooms or rooms with fireproof doors especially designated by the Labor Commission or Fire Prevention Bureau as the case may be. I think that amendment was wise. I believe it is desirable to have special rooms for smoking, and, if we provide such special rooms with proper construction we then have a right to say "you men can smoke nowhere else than in this particular room." I was interested to receive from our member Chief Hammitt, of the New York Fire Prevention Bureau, the data of arrests in New York for violations of that law; that is to say, in rooms not specially designated. The members may be interested to know that there were 1,370 arrests of that character in 1915 in New York. Many persons were arrested and preferred to go to jail rather than pay the fines. I believe that we should urge laws preventing smoking in factories, but urge also that permission be given to smoke in smoking rooms in factories if properly constructed. (Applause.)

Mr. Phillips (reading):

10. The education of children and the public generally in careful habits regarding the use of fire.

In the furtherance of these objects we appeal for the co-operation of all citizens. We ask them to help in the dissemination of our valuable literature and in the use of the standards of fire protection so carefully worked out by our committees to the end that the lives and substance of our people shall not continue to be dissipated by a reckless and easily preventable waste.

The President: Mr. Phillips moves the adoption of the resolutions. Are there any remarks?

Mr. Herman L. Ekern: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I wish to ask your indulgence for a moment. In these resolutions it seems to me that there is one additional point which might be considered. Any ordinance must respond to some central authority. It is not necessary that there be a czar, but there must be an enforcing body. These resolutions all propose governmental action, but there is no central authority suggested or discussed. It may be interesting to you to know that the last session of the Kentucky Legislature enacted a law which specifically provided that every owner shall keep his property free from danger of loss to property or life by fire. That is the fundamental principle. The administration of this law is vested in the State Fire Marshal. I believe that the State Fire Marshal under that act has power to act on every subject included in these resolutions. The idea is not new. The principle is the one which underlies the Workmen's Compensation Acts, and an experience of five years under these acts has shown that because of them there is an awakening all over the country on this question of safety. I want to propose in this connection the addition to the resolutions of the following paragraph:

"The co-ordination of all these activities through a central state administrative body or officers by which uniform action and efficient co-operation by all may be secured."

The President: Do you offer that as a motion?

Mr. Ekern: I do, Mr. President.

The President: I think the proper order is to proceed to the consideration of the resolutions before us, and after they are disposed of, we may act on Mr. Ekern's motion. Is there any further discussion on these resolutions as a whole? All in favor of their adoption will signify it by saying "Aye." The ayes have it and the resolutions are adopted. I now recognize Mr. Ekern.

Mr. Ekern: I now offer the resolution which was read a moment ago.

Mr. Kohn: Does the resolution merely provide for co-ordination of authority or enforcement?

Mr. Ekern: Yes, sir. It does not go so far as to declare in favor of enforcement by the central authority.

Mr. George M. Robertson (Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific): I think the resolution should be somewhat further elucidated. How would that central authority be formed, who would compose it, who would have the power?

Mr. Ekern: A state central authority.

Mr. Robertson: Nominated or appointed by the governor, or elected, or in what way formed? How are you going to create it?

Mr. Ekern: I do not think it would be wise to enter into details now, for this reason: That in some of the states these administrative officers are appointed by the governor; in others they are elected by the state legislature; in others they are elected by the people. It would have to conform to the practice in the particular state.

Mr. Robertson: Then I understand that it is merely the principle that you wish to establish at the present time.

Mr. Powell Evans: This is not in the way of criticism, but I wish to call attention to one point. There is a battle in all the larger cities over the principle of home rule. In the cities of New York and Philadelphia the authority is entirely taken away from the state and lodged in the unit of the city. If a word were put into the proposed resolution recognizing this situation it would sit better with the authorities.

The President: Do you offer that as an amendment or as a suggestion?

Mr. Evans: As a suggestion.

Mr. Ekern: I have no objection to laying this over for a day or two to get it into such form that there will be no question of conflict. If agreeable I will ask permission to reintroduce it on Thursday.

The President: If there is no objection the resolution is temporarily withdrawn.

A Member: Isn't there a Committee on Resolutions?

Secretary Wentworth: There is no such committee. It is usual to refer resolutions to the Executive Committee for consideration before the Association commits itself."

The range of fire safety issues addressed in the Resolution proposals pretty much covers the field, from the transportation of explosives through cities, the adoption and enforcement of a building code, the regulation of smoking materials and the standardization of fire hose couplings and fire hydrant outlets.

In particular note the reference to the Standard Building Code developed by the National Board of Fire Underwrites (NBFU).

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