

**FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 233: 1915  
(THE SAFETY TO LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT)**

By Richard Schulte

The nineteenth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in New York in mid-May 1915. Among the committees presenting reports at this meeting was the Safety to Life Committee. The following is an excerpt from the report made by the Safety to Life Committee:

*“**The President:** The next in order on the program is the report of the Committee on Safety to Life, Mr. **H. W. Forster**, Philadelphia, Chairman.*

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SAFETY TO LIFE.**

*H. W. Forster, Chairman.*

*David S. Beyer, Lewis T. Bryant, F. E. Cabot, R. W. Campbell, W. J. Canada, Henry B. Cross, R. O. Dawson, Carl M. Hansen, L. H. Kunhardt, R. H. Newbern, William Newell, Robert Palm, E. B. Tolsted, James White, Sidney J. Williams.*

**Mr. Forster:** *Your Committee presents herewith its second annual report.*

*During the past year, the Committee has done chiefly the following:—*

- 1. Continued its work on outside stair specifications, and it will present to-day what is hoped will be a final report.*
- 2. Prepared a report on Occupancy Based on Exit Capacity. This report will be read to-day.*
- 3. Arranged for and assisted in a conference on possible revisions of the National Electrical Code to harmonize it with the accident prevention point of view. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Bureau of Standards has in hand the preparation of what it is hoped will be the National Electrical Safety Code and which will be a companion work to our world-renowned Fire Code.*

4. *Conferred with and given advice to a number of our Association committees.*

5. *Kept in close touch with the safety movement throughout the land, with special reference to items of interest from both the fire and accident prevention standpoints. As President Campbell of the **National Safety Council** is on this Committee, and your Chairman is on the Executive Committee of the National Safety Council, it follows that our two sister associations are working together in entire harmony. (Mr. Campbell and I have acted as "interlocking directors," so to speak.)*

*Our members will be glad to know that the National Safety Council has been growing at a splendid rate, having now well over one thousand members representative of all sections of the country, extending to almost every industry, and including in its membership, as in our own Association, the ablest men in this line of activity. We propose to read our report on Number of Occupants Based on Exit Capacity, which, as the members will observe, is a presentation of the essential factors in this problem, and which we hope will be a valuable guide, and follow this by our report on Outside Stairs, illustrated with lantern slides to facilitate discussion.*

[REPORT CONTINUES]"

Aside from the committees on automatic sprinklers and electrical systems, both system installation standards, the standard developed by the Safety to Life Committee, the Building Exits Code/Life Safety Code, will become the most important standard developed by the National Fire Protection Association.

The Building Exits Code/Life Safety Code standard developed by the Safety to Life Committee has influenced the provisions included in the model building codes for nearly a century.

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**Source:** *"Proceedings of the Nineteenth Annual [NFPA] Meeting"*, New York, New York, 1915.

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