
15 U.S. Code § 278f

Fire Research Center

(a) Establishment; programs of research; functions of Secretary; dissemination of information

There is hereby established within the Department of Commerce a Fire Research Center which shall have the mission of performing and supporting research on all aspects of fire with the aim of providing scientific and technical knowledge applicable to the prevention and control of fires. The content and priorities of the research program shall be determined in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration. In implementing this section, the Secretary is authorized to conduct, directly or through contracts or grants, a fire research program, including—

- (1) basic and applied fire research for the purpose of arriving at an understanding of the fundamental processes underlying all aspects of fire. Such research shall include scientific investigations of—
 - (A) the physics and chemistry of combustion processes;
 - (B) the dynamics of flame ignition, flame spread, and flame extinguishment;
 - (C) the composition of combustion products developed by various sources and under various environmental conditions;
 - (D) the early stages of fires in buildings and other structures, structural subsystems and structural components in all other types of fires, including, but not limited to, forest fires, brush fires, fires underground, oil blowout fires, and waterborne fires, with the aim of improving early detection capability;
 - (E) the behavior of fires involving all types of buildings and other structures and their contents (including mobile homes and highrise buildings, construction materials, floor and wall coverings, coatings, furnishings, and other combustible materials), and all other types of fires, including forest fires, brush fires, fires underground, oil blowout fires, and waterborne fires;
 - (F) the unique fire hazards arising from the transportation and use, in industrial and professional practices, of combustible gases, fluids, and materials;
 - (G) design concepts for providing increased fire safety consistent with habitability, comfort, and human impact in buildings and other structures;
 - (H) such other aspects of the fire process as may be deemed useful in pursuing the objectives of the fire research program; and
 - (I) methods, procedures, and equipment for arson prevention, detection, and investigation;

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