

NFPA No.

501A

*File: 500 Series
Ground Transportation*

**Standard for
Fire Protection in
TRAILER COURTS**

**May
1960**



Forty Cents*

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
International
60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Mass.

National Fire Protection Association

International

Executive Office: 60 Batterymarch St., Boston 10, Mass.

The National Fire Protection Association was organized in 1896 to promote the science and improve the methods of fire protection and prevention, to obtain and circulate information on these subjects and to secure the cooperation of its members in establishing proper safeguards against loss of life and property by fire. Its membership includes two hundred national and regional societies and associations (list on outside back cover) and nearly eighteen thousand individuals, corporations, and organizations. Anyone interested may become a member; membership information is available on request.

This is one of a large number of publications on fire safety issued by the Association; a complete list is available without charge on request. All NFPA standards adopted by the Association are published in the **National Fire Codes** which are re-issued annually. The standards, prepared by the technical committees of the NFPA and adopted in the annual meetings of the Association, are intended to prescribe reasonable measures for minimizing losses of life and property by fire. All interests concerned have opportunity through the Association to participate in the development of the standards and to secure impartial consideration of matters affecting them. Complete information on Committees will be found in the NFPA Year Book.

Official NFPA Definitions

SHALL is intended to indicate requirements.

SHOULD is intended to indicate recommendations, or that which is advised but not required.

APPROVED refers to approval by the authority having jurisdiction.

Units of measurements used here are U. S. standard. 1 U. S. gallon = 0.83 Imperial gallons = 3.785 liters. One foot = 0.3048 meters. One inch = 25.4 millimeters. One pound per square inch = 0.06805 atmospheres = 2.307 feet of water.

Approved Equipment

The National Fire Protection Association does not "approve" individual items of fire protection equipment, materials or services. The suitability of devices and materials for installation under these standards is indicated by the listings of nationally recognized testing laboratories, whose findings are customarily used as a guide to approval by agencies applying these standards. Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada, the Factory Mutual Laboratories and the American Gas Association (gas devices) test devices and materials for use in accordance with the appropriate standards, and publish lists which are available on request.

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TRAILER COURTS

NFPA No. 501A—1960

This standard, prepared by the NFPA Committee on Trailers and Trailer Courts, was adopted by the National Fire Protection Association at the 1960 Annual Meeting, May 16-20.

It supersedes a part of the old standard No. 501, Trailers and Trailer Courts. The balance of this standard is now separately printed as No. 501B. NFPA attention to this subject dates from 1937. Official NFPA standards in this field have been previously adopted and published in 1939, 1940, and 1952.

COMMITTEE ON TRAILERS AND TRAILER COURTS

James O. Ford, *Chairman*

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., 246 North High St., Columbus 16, Ohio.

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| Barney Alverson , International Assn. of Electrical Inspectors | Forrest B. Lucas , International Assn. of Fire Chiefs |
| Russell R. Bahr , Div. of Housing, California Dept. of Industrial Relations (Personal) | Louis J. Lucas , Mobile Homes Manufacturers Assn. |
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| Walter H. Johnson , Liquefied Petroleum Gas Assn. | H. H. Watson , NFPA Electrical Section, National Electrical Manufacturers Assn. |
| Eugene L. Lehr , U. S. Public Health Service (Personal) | A. M. Willis , Deputy State Fire Marshal of Florida (Personal) |

Mr. O'Connor has voted negatively because of objection to the 15-foot separation between trailers (he favors 10 feet), and because of objection to provisions on electric and gas supply facilities.

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Standard for
FIRE PROTECTION IN TRAILER COURTS
NFPA No. 501A — 1960

FOREWORD

This standard covers trailer courts intended to accommodate trailers designed (or intended) for living quarters.

The mobility of trailers involves certain difficulties in enforcement of any regulations for safety, particularly since they customarily move across state or provincial lines. Certain measures, however, may be helpful to enforcing authorities desirous of enforcing regulations in the interest of public safety. Such measures may include items such as the following:

(1) State or provincial laws making it illegal to connect an electric or gas supply to a trailer unless the trailer conforms to proper standards.

(2) Laws requiring the licensing of trailer courts, providing for state or provincial licensing in case the municipalities do not provide licensing, and requiring that trailer court operators maintain proper standards with respect both to the court and to the trailers parked thereon.

FIRE PROTECTION IN TRAILER COURTS

NFPA No. 501A — 1960

Chapter 1. Location and Sub-Division of Trailer Parking and of Trailer Courts.

101. Approval of Trailer Court Location. Trailer courts shall have access to a public street or road by directly abutting thereon or by means of a private road(s) suitable for access by local fire fighting apparatus.

102. Access to Public Streets. Trailer courts shall have access to a public street or road by directly abutting thereon or by means of a private hard-surfaced road not less than 20 feet wide.

103. Roadways in Trailer Courts. Trailer courts shall have road(s) suitable for access by local fire department apparatus which road(s) will permit the fire department apparatus to approach within 200 feet of any part of any trailer.

104. Clearance. Trailers shall be so located within the trailer court that a spacing of at least 15 feet is maintained between trailers, together with their additions and appurtenances and from permanent structures or buildings.

Chapter 2. Instructions to Court Personnel and Tenants.

201. Fire Fighting Instruction. The trailer court operator shall be responsible for the instruction of his staff in the use of the court fire protection equipment and in their specific duties in the event of fire.

202. Fire Safety Program for Tenants. The rules and regulations — fire safety of the court — shall be conspicuously posted. See Appendix A for a typical set of rules and regulations.

Chapter 3. Electrical Equipment and Systems.

301. Approval and Installation. All electrical systems and equipment shall be of an approved type and installed in accordance with the provisions of the National Electrical Code in so far as applicable with exceptions noted.

302. Court Electrical Supply. The electrical supply facilities of the trailer court shall have adequate capacity to serve the maximum connected load, subject to a demand factor determined by inspection authority having jurisdiction.

303. Trailer Electrical Supply. The trailer court operator shall provide facilities for electrical supply to each trailer, with readily accessible means of disconnecting the electrical supply. The trailer court operator should provide for each trailer a grounding type supply receptacle, provided with appropriate fuses or circuit breakers. Electrical connection between electrical supply and the trailer shall be made only under the supervision of the court operator.

304. Grounding. When the requirements of Paragraph 303 do not accomplish the proper grounding of the trailers a ground connection shall be provided, with clamps or other facilities for connection between ground and the body of the trailer if of metal. Such ground connection shall be a minimum of No. 8 stranded copper conductor or its equivalent, and shall be connected to a metallic water pipe or other approved ground in accordance with the National Electrical Code. Such ground connection shall be made before connecting the electrical supply, and shall be kept in place at all times while the electrical supply is connected.

305. Electrical Disconnection. Adequate arrangement shall be made to assure that both electrical supply and ground connections will be disconnected before the trailer is moved.

Chapter 4. Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases.

401. Container Filling. When such service is provided, the liquefied petroleum gas containers shall be filled at a properly equipped container filling plant or from a tank truck, both complying with the applicable requirements of the NFPA Standard No. 58, Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases.

402. Location of Filling Plant. Such filling plant may be located in the trailer court provided that the entire operation, including the storage container, is located not less than 50 feet from the nearest trailer, important buildings, or group of buildings, or line of adjoining property which may be built upon, and not less than 25 feet from any public street or highway. Such filling plant and storage containers shall be enclosed by six-foot industrial type fencing or otherwise protected from tampering or physical damage. The access to the enclosed area shall be kept locked when unattended.

403. Filling From Tank Truck. Containers installed at the trailer may be filled at that location by a tank truck. When containers are accumulated at the tank truck for charging such charging shall not be done within 50 feet of the nearest building, trailer, or group of buildings nor within 25 feet of public streets or highways. Private streets, roads or rights of way shall not be classed as public streets or highways. No vapor or liquid shall be vented to the atmosphere during the filling operation. The container filling operation shall only be performed by qualified personnel.

Chapter 5. Piped Gas Service.

501. Gas Supply. Where facilities are provided for gas supply to a trailer from a fixed piping system, all parts of the system shall be in accordance with NFPA Standard No. 54, Installation of Gas Appliances and Gas Piping if the design gas pressure is to be $\frac{1}{2}$ psi or less, or in accordance with NFPA No. 58, Standard for the Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases if the system is to operate on pressures in excess of $\frac{1}{2}$ psi, except that when approved by the serving gas company and the enforcing authority, the connection from the servicing gas system to the trailer may be made by a listed flexible metal connector.

502. Gas Connection. The gas supply shall be connected to the trailer only by a qualified installing agency (See NFPA Standard No. 54, Installation of Gas Appliances and Gas Piping) who shall see that the piping is properly purged and is free from leaks, and appliances are suitable for the gas to be supplied.

503. Gas Service Disconnection. Adequate arrangements shall be made to assure that gas connections are disconnected before the trailer is moved.

Chapter 6. Storage and Handling of Flammable Liquids

601. Applicable Standards. In courts where gasoline, fuel oil, or other flammable liquids are stored and dispensed, their handling and storage shall comply with NFPA No. 30, Code for Flammable Liquids.

Chapter 7. Fire Protection of Trailer Courts.

701. Access to Trailers for Fire Fighting. Approaches to all trailers shall be kept clear for fire fighting. Conductors of overhead wiring systems shall have a clearance of not less than 18 feet above trailer court roadways.

702. Fire Alarms. Provisions shall be made for giving an alarm in case of fire.

703. Fire Alarm Boxes. Where the services of a fire department are available to the trailer court, approved fire alarm box(es) or approved telephone facilities or other approved methods shall be provided and shall be readily accessible at all times. Where such fire department services are not available, approved local fire alarm facilities shall be made for giving an alarm.

704. Tenant Instruction. It shall be the responsibility of the trailer court operator to inform all tenants about means for summoning fire apparatus, police departments, and court employees.

705. Public Fire Protection. Water supply facilities for fire department operations shall be provided, to consist of one or more of the following, so arranged as to permit the operation of a minimum of two 1½-in. hose streams on any fire in a trailer or elsewhere in the trailer court. Water supply and associated facilities shall be sufficient to provide a delivery of at least 75 gallons per minute at each of two nozzles, held 4 feet above the ground, at a flowing pressure of at least 30 pounds per square inch at the highest point in the court. The utilization of available fire fighting equipment may be assumed in determining compliance with these minimums:

(a) A public water supply system with hydrants located within 500 feet of all trailer parking sites.

(b) A private hydrant system complying with NFPA Standard No. 24, Outside Protection, except that where fire department services are available, no supply of hose shall be required, and hydrants so located that one will be within 500 feet of all trailer parking sites shall be sufficient.

(c) An approved private system with hydrants connected to domestic water supply, so arranged as to provide protection equivalent to pars. 705 (a) and (b). (No standards are available on such a system as it will have to be designed and approved for the individual trailer court.)

(d) An approved suction supply or supplies each of not less than 3,000 gallons suitable for fire department pumper drafting, so located that each trailer site will be within 500 feet of a supply point.

(e) Where fire departments are equipped with tank trucks for water supply, in accordance with NFPA Standard No. 19, Specifications for Motor Fire Apparatus, and such trucks are so located that in case of fire, they can respond as soon as fire fighting personnel, they may be accepted in lieu of a fixed water supply by permission of the enforcing authority.

706. Private Fire Protection. Where no fire department is available, arrangement shall be made for private fire fighting facilities adequate for the individual trailer court, as determined by the enforcing authority.

707. Portable Fire Appliances. Approved facilities shall be provided for fighting fires in ordinary combustible materials (Class A), readily accessible to all trailer occupants, in readily visible locations. Such facilities may consist of Class A extinguishers, (soda-acid, pump tank, anti-freeze) in accordance with NFPA Standard No. 10, Installation, Maintenance and Use of Portable Fire Extinguishers, so located that it will not be necessary to travel more than 100 feet from any trailer to reach the nearest extinguisher, or may consist of garden hose of a type usable in all weather, permanently attached or in cabinets immediately adjacent to the hose connection, so located that any part of any trailer can be reached with a garden hose stream.

708. Extinguisher Spacing. One or more approved extinguishers of a type suitable for flammable liquid or electrical fires (Class B and Class C) in accordance with NFPA Standard No. 10, Portable Fire Extinguishers, (carbon dioxide or dry chemical) shall be so located that it will not be necessary to travel more than 100 feet to reach the nearest extinguisher.

709. Care of Fire Appliances. Appropriate arrangements shall be made to prevent freezing of fire fighting equipment in any area subject to freezing.

Chapter 8. Rubbish, Brush and Weed Removal.

801. Incinerators. The court operator shall provide an adequate system of collection and safe disposal of rubbish. Incinerators, when provided, shall be in accordance with NFPA No. 82, Standard on Incinerators.

802. Removal of Brush and Weeds. The court operator shall maintain the entire area of the court free of dry brush, leaves and weeds.

**Proposed Appendix for
Fire Safety Rules and Regulations
in Trailer Courts, NFPA No. 501A**

APPENDIX A

Introduction.

The purpose of this appendix is to list fire safety rules and regulations which shall be conspicuously posted in areas by trailer court management. The objectives of these rules are to (1) inform tenants about such rules and (2) expect tenants to cooperate by complying with these rules which are deemed desirable for the protection of life and property from fire.

1. Emergency Facilities.

- a. The telephone number of the Fire Department is.....

NOTE: Or other means for calling the Fire Department are: (1) Location of the fire alarm box is.....or (2) sounding the fire alarm (location of local alarm).

(If first aid operators are available by the fire or police, indicate the number.)

- b. The telephone number of the Police Department is.....

- c. The telephone number of the Court Office is.....

- d. The location of this court is (Highway Number, Street Number, Name of Street, Highway, Court.).

- e. The nearest public telephone is

2. Services.

The connecting and disconnecting of water, fuel and electrical services will be made only by court personnel or other authorized persons as determined by court management. Should these services be interrupted telephone or notify.....
for water,.....for fuel,.....
for electrical.

3. Fire Fighting Equipment.

Portable fire extinguishers (and/or other fire fighting equipment) are maintained on the premises. Extinguishers are located within 100 feet of your trailer. The nearest extinguisher to your unit is located (directions to the nearest portable fire extinguisher inserted). Tenants should have their personal fire extinguishers checked regularly by qualified personnel.

4. Procedure in Case of Fire.

In case of fire in your trailer, tenants should do these things in the following order: (1) Get the occupants out of the trailer. (2) Call the Fire Department or sound the alarm. The important thing to do is to get the professional fire fighters at the fire.

In case of fire in the area, tenants should call the Fire Department (or turn in the alarm or sound the alarm); use portable extinguishers on the fire.

5. Fire Conditions.

The court management should maintain constant alertness to unsafe fire and accident conditions and practices at all times. Tenants can aid trailer court management in keeping the area free from such conditions by notifying trailer court management when they recognize unsafe conditions. Constant vigilance is necessary to maintain the premises free from fire at all times. Fire safety is everyone's job.

6. Rubbish.

Tenants shall keep the area under and around their units free from an accumulation of rubbish — paper, leaves and brush. Containers should be provided for disposing of rubbish and a collection system maintained. Burning of rubbish should be permitted only in incinerators provided.

7. Empty Fuel Containers.

Tenants shall not place empty fuel containers under their units. These containers shall be left in place if their unit is so designed for more than one container. If the unit is not designed for more than one container, empty fuel containers shall be stored in designated area(s).

8. Home Inspections.

Through the facilities of your local fire department your home can be inspected by members of this department at designated times. If you would like to have a voluntary inspection of your unit, please notify the office (court management).

9. Traffic Regulations.

Operators of vehicular equipment shall observe the posted traffic signs or signals.