



# Frequently Asked Questions About NFPA 70E, 2018 Edition

## Q: What is the NFPA?

**A:** **NFPA** stands for **National Fire Protection Association**. The NFPA is a US-based non-profit trade association which was established in 1896 and is headquartered in **Quincy, MA**. Their mission is to reduce and eliminate fire, electrical and other hazards, by providing and advocating for consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. NFPA membership totals more than **70,000 individuals** around the world.

The NFPA develops, publishes, and disseminates more than **300 national and international consensus codes and standards** intended to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other risks. Examples of areas where NFPA provides codes and standards include fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, fire hydrants, sprinkler systems and everything else fire related. The NFPA **is** the leading authority on fire and electrical building code safety. See <https://www.nfpa.org>.

## Q: Does the NFPA enforce these standards?

**A:** The NFPA is not an enforcement agency. Their **codes** are enforced by state and local fire marshals, as well as electrical and building inspectors. NFPA standards are adopted or referenced by regulatory agencies like OSHA, thus making them, indirectly, enforceable.

OSHA enforces occupational safety and health compliance by adopting language from many standards, including standards from the NFPA, in their own Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

## Q: What is NFPA 70E all about?

**A:** NFPA 70E is a consensus standard, meaning it was developed by a wide range of industry leaders and experts. Its formal title is the *NFPA 70E Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace*. The standard provides guidance in any industry where there may be human exposure to live electrical current greater than 50 volts.

NFPA 70E was first published in 1979 and has been updated several times since. The latest 2018 edition is approximately 106 pages long, comprised of three main chapters with associated articles, annexes, and reference tables.

NFPA 70E is not just about the dangers of arc flash. Arc flash is covered, however, the standard is more about electrical safe work practices that should be integrated into an employer's electrical safety program.



**Q: What information does the NFPA 70E standard provide on best practices?**

**A:** NFPA 70E includes information on what to do about the dangers of incident energy electric shock, arc flash and associated arc blast, the proper selection and maintenance of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment, hazard risk assessments, identifying arc flash boundaries and equipment labeling requirements, written hot work permits, and **employee training**. To view or purchase the NFPA 70E standard, see <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=70E>.

**Q: If a company employs licensed electricians, or subcontracts out to licensed electricians, are these electricians automatically considered to be qualified persons per NFPA 70E?**

**A: NO!** Being a licensed electrician in no way meets the requirements for being a **qualified person** per **NFPA 70E!** Licensed electricians must have years of field experience as apprentices and thousands of hours of classroom training before being able to qualify to sit for their journeyman exam. Once they pass, they receive their journeyman electrician license. A journeyman electrician can then (eventually) become a master electrician by passing another test. What's important to know is that electrical licenses are based on the **National Electrical Code (NEC)**, which is more about building codes, less about the safety of those who work around electricity. With their extensive training, experience, and knowledge, one might assume that electricians would be well aware of the dangers of electric shock, arc flash, and arc blast. However, statistics tell a very different story.

**Q: Who will need training on the NFPA 70E standard?**

**A: Any** employee who is potentially exposed to electrical incident energy shock, or to arc or blast conditions for voltages greater than 50 volts needs to be trained on the NFPA 70E standard. The same applies for contractors, as both **host** employers and **contractors** must comply with the standard.

**Q: What courses does ClickSafety offer on the NFPA 70E standard?**

**A:** ClickSafety offers these courses, which can be used across all industries:

- **Introduction to NFPA 70E (2018) For All Industries**  
Our **45-minute** introductory course provides a general awareness of the NFPA 70E standard for anyone who might be potentially or indirectly exposed to electrical hazards.
- **NFPA 70E Electrical Safety for Supervisors and Managers in All Industries**



Our **2-hour** course for supervisors and managers is for anyone having direct exposure to electrical hazards, and who may also have a role in a company's electrical safety program.

- **NFPA 70E for Qualified Persons in All Industries**

Our **5-hour** course supports and supplements **training requirements** for a qualified person, and for those interested in becoming a qualified person, under the NFPA 70E definition. NOTE: Taking the course alone does not make one qualified. The designation of qualified person must come from the employer.

Those who will benefit from ClickSafety's NFPA 70E courses and curriculum include, but are not limited to:

- *Safety Directors and Managers*
- *Electricians and Electrical Engineers*
- *Construction Workers/Supervisors/Managers*
- *Crane and Ariel Lift Operators*
- *Electro/Mechanical Service and Maintenance Technicians – A VERY IMPORTANT AND COMMONLY OVERLOOKED GROUP!*

**Q: Once a worker takes an NFPA 70E course, is the worker in compliance with NFPA 70E?**

**A: NO!** Remember, NFPA 70E states that training is just **one** component of an overall **effective electrical safety program**. Any designation of **competent, qualified** or **certified** must come from the employer.

**Q: Why should clients consider ClickSafety NFPA 70E courses?**

**A:** Go with the industry leader.

- **Experience** - Go with **ClickSafety**, the most established industry leader and recognized brand in online training, our credentialed Subject Matter Expert professionals having over **130 years** of combined compliance experience.
- **Value** - Our courses offer relevant and simplified NFPA 70E information in an effective and efficient e-learning format.
- **Recognition** – ClickSafety's parent company, **Ascend Learning**, also owns **UGLY's**, one of the most recognized, informative brands of trade pocket guides, including the definitive pocket guide for electrical safety.