



VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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During the Village of Lake Zurich Board meeting last night, the Board unanimously adopted updated model building codes. These codes include the 2006 International Building Code, 2006 International Residential Code, 2006 International Property Maintenance Code, 2006 International Mechanical Code, 2004 Illinois State Plumbing Code, 2005 National Electrical Code, 2006 International Fire Code, 2006 International Energy Conservation Code, and 2006 International Fuel Gas Code. According to Building & Zoning Director Dan Peterson, "The adoption of the model codes and local amendments provides the citizens who live, work, and play in Lake Zurich access to safe buildings and homes, a significant improvement in emergency fire response, and an improved insurance rating."

The majority of the amendments to the code provides and clarifies the same standards that have been in effect with prior code adoptions. "Most notably the new revision provides for the creation of a Building Code Board of Appeals, includes the requirement for fire suppression systems in new single-family detached homes, and allows for the ability to use PVC pipe for water supply in certain conditions," states Director Peterson.

The creation of a Board of Appeals will provide a fair and legal means for any person to dispute a code issue. The new board will consist of three qualified professionals, not

employed by the Village of Lake Zurich, with experience or training in design, engineering, or construction in the building, architectural, mechanical, electrical, or fire protection fields. “The establishment of the new Board is another continuing step in the right direction to provide improved transparency and accountability of Lake Zurich’s Village government services. Shortly, we will be looking for qualified individuals within the community to be appointed to the Board”, stated Bob Vitas, Village Administrator. If you are interested in serving the community on this Board, please provide a letter of interest and qualifications to the Village Administrator for consideration.

The requirement to install fire sprinkler systems in new single-family homes follows current national trends to enhance fire safety. Each year over three thousand people die in home fires, over thirteen thousand are injured, and more than \$10 billion in property is lost.

Director/Fire Chief Terry Mastandrea has recognized the fact that cost effective technology provides an opportunity to reduce, significantly, the loss of life and property in the community by building in a higher degree of fire protection into new structures. “Loss of life is unacceptable when statistics indicate “NO” life has been lost in a structure equipped with an approved and operating fire suppression system. When dealing with property loss, what community can afford to have homes come off the tax roles for any significant time. Loss of property tax will create a greater hardship for the community.”

Director/Fire Chief Terry Mastandrea indicated, “We are faced with some very challenging economic times where available funding for personnel and equipment is diminishing. The action of the Village Board to create a 100% fire-suppressed community in new construction is a very proactive and fiscally responsible way to deal

with the preservation of life and property from fire. Without such bold action, the fire service would remain in a reactive mode where increased resources are required to maintain fire response staffing and equipment to respond to actual fire incidents rather than to reduce those incidents which in turn would allow critical resources to be allocated to other priorities”.

The latest editions of each model code now recognize, through new requirements, that fire sprinklers are the best system available to reduce these losses. Sixty communities in Illinois have already adopted these standards. The requirement will only affect new homes.