



## National Fire Service Speaks Out Against Anti-Sprinkler Bills

Courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association

Citing the fact that more than 90 percent of fireground firefighter deaths occur in one- and two-family homes, leading fire service organizations warned against state-by-state legislative efforts, orchestrated by homebuilders, which are designed to prohibit communities from requiring residential fire sprinklers in new home construction. Fire service groups are reiterating their strong support for sprinklers in the wake of several legislative attempts across the country.

"Anti-sprinkler proponents are attempting to deny local jurisdictions the right to decide on critical safety code provisions and if successful, they will put firefighters and the public at risk," said International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) President Chief Larry J. Grorud, CFO, MIFireE. "These anti-sprinkler bills will set a dangerous precedent." Chief Grorud said there are now bills in approximately 15 states that ignore the well established, life-safety benefit of sprinklers and if passed, will take away a real opportunity to enhance public and firefighter safety.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), approximately 80 percent of all fires occur in homes, but when home fire sprinklers are present the chances of dying in a home fire decrease by about 80 percent. NFPA has no record of a multiple fatality fire in a sprinklered building where the system operated. All model safety codes now call for the installation of residential sprinklers in new home construction.

"Now is not the time to backslide on fire and life safety. It is important to move this technology forward with the adoption of sprinkler provisions from the model codes into state and local codes in order to bring this added level of safety to all citizens," said Georgia State Fire Marshal Alan R. Shuman, president of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM).

"We see the devastating consequences of home fires every day, and we know sprinklers save lives," International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) General President Harold A. Schaitberger said. "These misguided legislative efforts will make it harder to keep people safe, protect their property, and will jeopardize the lives of firefighters."

"Home fire sprinklers provide an added level of safety because they control heat, smoke and flames allowing occupants time to escape and giving firefighters a safer environment," said National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "The NVFC's state association members have been fighting and will continue to push back against attempts to restrict fire sprinkler installation in new residential construction."

Roughly 90 percent of the time, fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler. When sprinklers are not present, the fire can burn for minutes, raging out of control, filling the home with toxic smoke and resulting in far greater losses. A recent NFPA report states that sprinklers reduce the average property loss by 71 percent per fire.

Anyone interested in public safety and learning more about home fire sprinklers can visit [www.firesprinklerinitiative.org](http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org). ■

## Multifamily Fire Protection News in the North

In 2006, the state of Wisconsin adopted the 2006 edition of the International Building Code (IBC) with modifications. The code includes the installation of fire sprinkler systems in all new construction multifamily dwellings of three units or greater.

During the process to adopt the 2006 IBC, the Wisconsin Builders Association opposed the adoption, expressing increased building, material and labor costs as their primary concern.

Concluding the adoption process, the state legislature wanted to come to a compromise on the code to make a final decision. Proposals from the builders and other legislators who were working against the adoption of the national model code requested the inclusion of a 10-year phase-in. These same influencers wanted multifamily dwellings with 13 units or greater to be required to install fire sprinkler systems, but exempting all multifamily buildings with no municipal water supply.

After numerous discussions, the code was passed with minor modifications to the national model code, calling for the installation of fire sprinkler systems in multifamily dwellings of nine units or greater. The code also allows the option to install NFPA 13D systems in 3- and 4-unit buildings, only when an area lacks a municipal water supply. The code became effective March 2008.

Beginning January 1, 2011, the code will require the defaults to the model code calling for the installation of fire sprinkler systems in dwellings of three units or greater.

After the adoption of the code, the Wisconsin Builders Association continued its fight against the second modification of three units or greater by challenging the Wisconsin Department of Commerce's authority to ratify this rule. The building association took its battle to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, but the court rejected the appeal this past May.

All of the efforts made by fire service and fire safety organizations, such as the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, have turned out successful when they were needed most. As is evident in Wisconsin, teaching top officials the facts behind fire sprinklers and their benefits continues to be a vital operation for acceptance of fire sprinkler legislation, whether locally or nationally.

"When a building burns to the point that it can't be occupied, it is a total loss," says Dan Gengler, North Central Regional Manager of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. "The increased cost to install fire sprinkler systems provides savings in other parts of the building. The cost of constructing a new building alone is a lot of money, and ultimately, you cannot replace lost lives." ■



## INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE, INC.

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### RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS ISO FACT SHEET

ISO is an independent statistical, rating, and advisory organization that serves the property/casualty insurance industry. ISO is the leading supplier of underwriting information, advisory loss costs, supplementary rating information and standardized policy language to insurers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. ISO offers the following regarding how residential sprinklers are reflected in ISO's advisory residential property programs:

#### **PREMIUM DISCOUNTS**

The standard ISO Dwelling Fire and Homeowners Programs contain available premium Credits for installation of fire sprinkler protection up to a maximum of:

- 13% for full sprinkler protection that includes all areas of a home, including attics, bathrooms, closets, and attached structures;
- 8% for fire sprinkler protection of all areas of a home excluding the attic, bathrooms, closets, and attached structures as long as fire detection equipment is installed in those areas where sprinklers are omitted;

Individual insurer programs may provide different credits.

#### **SPRINKLER "LEAKAGE" COVERAGE**

The presence of a residential sprinkler system may raise concern about the risk of accidental water leakage from the system. ISO's standard Homeowners policy forms provide coverage for "...accidental discharge or overflow of water...from within a...fire protective sprinkler system...". This coverage is included in the basic policy. There is no extra charge for this coverage.

Also, coverage is provided for water damage related to the suppression or extinguishment of a covered fire.

Individual insurer programs may provide variations to this coverage.

#### **BUILDING CODE EFFECTIVENESS GRADING SCHEDULE**

The ISO Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS®) is used to review public building code enforcement agencies and to develop a classification that is provided as advisory information to insurers who may use it for insurance underwriting and rating. If the requirement of the International Residential Code (2009) for automatic fire sprinkler protection of residential dwellings was removed by legislation or local ordinance, BCEGS would not provide full recognition for adoption of code without amendments. A building code enforcement agency which adopted a code with amendments that weaken hazard mitigation issues as defined in the model codes and referenced standards would not receive maximum recognition for code adoption.



# Illinois Fire Inspectors Association

## Fall Fire Safety Seminar

Date: November 18-20, 2009

Location: Medinah Banquets  
550 Shriners Drive  
Addison, IL, 60101

Wednesday November 18th:

7:30 a.m.

Registration

8:00a.m.

Trade Show Exhibit Opens

8:30 a.m.-4:00p.m.

**NFPA 72 Fire Alarm Code Update Instructor Larry Esch**

Mr. Esch will provide an overview for the Fire Inspector of the requirements and layout of a fire alarm system, to have an understanding of the Code requirements and what to look for when reviewing and inspecting a Fire Alarm System. *(Materials for class: NFPA 70 Article 760 and a copy of NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code 2002)*



Thursday November 19th:

7:30a.m.

Registration

8:00a.m.

Trade Show Exhibit Opens

8:30a.m.-11:30a.m.

**Administrative Rules enforced by the State Fire Marshal's Office**

Recommended for Building Department Directors, Fire Marshals, Fire Inspectors and Village Managers.



1:00pm-2:30pm

**A Code Officials guide to UL.**

Underwriters Laboratory Update Instructor Rich Walke.P.E.

This program provides an overview of UL certification programs and services, and demonstrates how AHJs can use UL certifications and services to help them with their plan approval and installation inspections. It also includes hands on examples of using UL resources and information to resolve fire code enforcement situations.



2:15pm-4:00pm

**Lightweight Construction Performance under Fire Conditions**

This program provides an overview of a DHS assisted project undertaken by UL to evaluate the fire performance of light weight construction under fire conditions. The project investigated and compared the fire performance of both protected and unprotected conventional solid joist lumber and lightweight lumber as used in floor and roof construction when subjected to fully instrumented standardized tests. Recommended for Fire Marshals, Fire Inspectors, Mechanical Inspectors, and Directors of building departments.

Friday November 20th:

7:30a.m.

Registration

8:30a.m.-11:00a.m.

**NFPA 25-Standard for the inspection, testing, and maintenance of Water Based Fire Protection Systems.**

Instructor Top Meyers, Risk Management for Fire Sprinklers REL Mark Group will discuss what is an NFPA 25 Inspection? Expectations, what is and what is not included. Recommended for Fire Marshals, Fire Inspectors, Facilities Managers, building department Directors.



11:00a.m. **Regular IFIA Monthly Meeting/Luncheon**



**Fall Fire Safety Seminar  
November 18 & 19, & 20, 2009  
Registration Form**

(Names): \_\_\_\_\_

Last 4 digits of SS#: \_\_\_\_\_ (Required if you apply for ICC training hours)

Representing: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate your Selection:**

\*Lunch is included with all sessions

|   | <u>Member</u>       | <u>Non-Member</u>   |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Three Day Program _____                 | \$175.00 per person | \$195.00 per person |
| Two Day Program _____                   | \$155.00 per person | \$175.00 per person |
| Weds. <input type="checkbox"/>          |                     |                     |
| Thurs. <input type="checkbox"/>         |                     |                     |
| Friday <input type="checkbox"/>         |                     |                     |
| Wednesday Only <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100.00 per person | \$110.00 per person |
| Thursday Only <input type="checkbox"/>  | \$100.00 per person | \$110.00 per person |
| Friday Only <input type="checkbox"/>    | \$60.00 per person  | \$70.00 per person  |

Walk-in Registrations will be charged an additional \$25.00 fee.

The Product/Vendor Trade Show is held in conjunction with the seminar and features what is new in the industry. The show is open Wednesday & Thursday November 18& 19th from 8:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m. There is NO charge for admittance to the trade show.

**Registration is on line at [www.illinoisfireinspectors.org](http://www.illinoisfireinspectors.org) or  
fill out this registration form and fax to the office: (847) 756-4752**

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