

Three Chicago-area Suburbs Pass Ordinances Requiring Fire Sprinklers in All New Homes

Orland Park, March 10, 2005—In an effort to increase fire safety and protect its citizens, three Chicago suburbs approved ordinances requiring the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in all new construction homes according to NFPA 13D recommendations.

On March 7th, the DesPlaines Village Board passed their residential fire sprinkler ordinance becoming the 24th municipality to adopt such an ordinance. On March 8th, the Libertyville and Huntley Village Boards also voted to require fire sprinkler systems in all new homes, bringing the total number of towns and fire protection districts with residential sprinkler ordinances to 26.

The Libertyville Board voted unanimously while the Huntley Board reaffirmed the Huntley Fire Protection District Board's decision made a few months earlier to require sprinklers in all new homes built in the district.

The Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB) provided the fire departments/districts and elected officials with background information and resources about NFPA 13D including essential fire report data, cost comparisons, insurance research and copies of the *America Burning Re commissioned* and *Firefighter Life Safety Summit* reports from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Other municipalities and fire districts that require residential fire sprinklers include: Barrington Fire Protection District, Berkeley, Clarendon Hills, Countryside Fire Protection District, Glen Ellyn, Hickory Hills, Hoffman Estates, Huntley Fire Protection District, Indian Creek, La Grange Park, Lake Barrington, Long Grove, Long Grove Fire Protection District, Matteson, Mount Prospect, North Maine Fire Protection District, Park Ridge, Round Lake Beach, Skokie, Streamwood, West Dundee, Wheeling, and Justice. Several other communities are also progressing towards this goal.

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