



South Carolina firefighters injured fighting fire in new home

Three North Charleston firefighters were injured fighting a fire in a new home on Monday. According to Bianca Sancic, Public Information Officer for the North Charleston Fire Department "the neighborhood is relatively new, about two years old."

Ms. Sancic informs that two of the firefighters were treated and released from the Medical University Hospital. The third firefighter was admitted to the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, Georgia; where he had surgery yesterday and is expected to be released today.

The Home Builders of South Carolina have a page dedicated to [opposing fire sprinklers](#), boasting that, "new homes are built safer than ever before". It has been established by various studies that lightweight construction in new homes poses a greater threat to occupants and firefighters when exposed to fire. This fire proves, one more time, that it is true.

A large number of firefighters were needed to bring this fire under control according to reports. The home is a total loss. The Red Cross had to step in to find shelter for the woman in the home. The healthcare bill of these three firefighters, specially the firefighter who had to be admitted to the burn unit, will be astronomical. All three firefighters will be out of work for sometime. Opponents claim that fire sprinklers should be a homeowners choice repeating the "a man's home is his castle" mantra. This fire proves that house fires impact the entire community, not just the occupants of the homes.

The fire service fought an extremely contentious battle in South Carolina to maintain the home fire sprinkler requirement in the code. Opponents of home fire sprinkler requirements were successful in convincing the South Carolina legislature to pass [HB4663](#) which postpones the requirement until 2014. The South Carolina legislature must do the right thing and reverse this action. [Contact the South Carolina legislators](#) and cite this fire as one of the reasons why they erred when they voted for HB4663.