



Residential Fire Safety Institute

Operation Life Safety

"Working Together for a Lifesaving Solution"

OLS NEWSFLASH

April 2010

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2009 Life Safety Achievement Award



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NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation, Residential Fire Safety Institute and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance presents...

2009 Life Safety Achievement Award.

The Life Safety Achievement Award program is again available to fire agencies. The award criteria and application process have been updated and are now available for presentation for the year 2009's fire prevention efforts.

To download the complete LSA Criteria [click here](#).
To download the LSA Awards application [click here](#).

BREAKING NEWS...

New Study Concludes Lifesaving Fire Sprinklers Are Also Good For The Environment

All of us have been hearing for some time about the "green value" of residential fire sprinklers and how it was an added benefit to the life-saving aspects. A recently

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released study demonstrates in a scientific way the environmental benefits of home fire sprinklers; this comprehensive study was conducted through a partnership between the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and FM Global.

[Click here](#) to view the multimedia version of the HFSC/FM Global press release that was distributed this week announcing the groundbreaking research results from the Environmental Impact of Automatic Fire Sprinklers Study.

The release also includes a link to the 3:46 minute summary video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtBafQdE9AM&feature=youtube_gdata

Please visit HFSC's blog for more information. <http://homefiresprinkler.org/wordpress/?p=82>

Editorial: *There We Go Again*

Product liability, federal incentive programs could enhance community safety
Well, there we go again. Just as they did last year, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has once gain increased their systematic behind the scene maneuverings at the state legislative levels in many states, demanding that the legislatures pass laws that prohibit all jurisdictions from enforcing the requirement for installation of residential fire sprinklers in all new homes. As you know, the fire prevention proponents and the fire service representatives worked tirelessly for a couple of decades to finally succeed in adopting the requirement for installation of the residential fire sprinkler systems in all new homes. [Continued](#)

International Code Council Final Action Hearings Schedule Now Available

The ICC has announced the schedule for the upcoming Final Action Hearings. Building safety advocates will consider several hundred code changes during the Hearings in Dallas, Texas, May 15-23. The Spring 2010 [Group A Final Action Hearings schedule](#) is now available. While preregistration is not mandatory, it is in the best interest of ICC voting members to [register in advance](#) and have their voting credentials verified prior to arriving in Dallas.

Related Story:

International Residential Code Will Retain Fire Sprinklers for New Homes in 2012 Edition - No Debate at Dallas ICC Hearing

The final action hearing agenda for the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC) has been released by the International Code Council (ICC), and there were no public comments challenging code requirements for residential fire sprinklers. Accordingly, under ICC regulations, requirements for residential sprinklers will not be subject to debate at ICC's final action hearing in Dallas in May. Instead, proposals to rescind sprinkler requirements from the IRC will be automatically disapproved, without discussion, as part of a consent agenda. [More](#)

Editorial: *Sprinklers Save Lives*

Home builders in Pennsylvania will gladly offer to sell buyers thousands of dollars in upgrades in kitchen counters, carpets, and the like. But they've gone to court to block a new requirement that lifesaving fire sprinklers be built into the price of every home constructed after January. [More](#)

Residential Sprinklers In The News...

Editorial: *Sprinklers Save Lives!*

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Exposing Inflated Home Fire Sprinkler Pricing Provided By Builders

Home fire sprinkler opponents often quote highly inflated home fire sprinkler costs. While our studies reveal that the average price of an NFPA 13D home fire sprinkler system is \$1.61 a square sprinklered ft., they often quote highly inflated prices to illustrate that home fire sprinklers are not cost effective. We now have a documented example from one builder's testimony in South Carolina. The fire sprinkler contractor involved was in the audience and confronted the builder at the end of the hearing. He then went back to find the quotes from the examples cited by the builder during the testimony. The price he testified about was for the retrofit of existing buildings. [Continued](#)

Editorial: *Are Home Fire Sprinklers Really Needed?*

Missouri is not able to enforce the ICC mandate that all new one- and two-family homes be equipped with a fire sprinkler system. However, the Missouri Fire Chiefs Association seems to have been able to get a resolution passed allowing them - if they are desired by the homeowner. [More](#)

Editorial: *Now Is the Time to Sustain Our Cause for Residential Sprinklers*

We applaud the efforts of states such as California and Pennsylvania to successfully pass requirements for residential sprinklers that will positively impact the level of safety for the citizens and firefighters for years to come. Residential sprinklers are another tool in the toolbox for our suppression force. Residential fire sprinklers drastically reduce the time necessary for our suppression forces to be on a fire scene to control and extinguish a fire, allowing our emergency resources to respond quickly to other life-threatening situation in our communities. [Continued](#)

IBHS: Dropping FL Residential Fire Sprinkler Requirement a Mistake

Florida House committee's attempt to snuff out a proposed rule requiring fire sprinklers in many newly constructed homes endangers residents and firefighters, according to the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS). Fire sprinklers are a proven, cost-effective way to protect life and property," said Julie Rochman, IBHS president & CEO. "When it comes to residential sprinklers, the marginal costs of installation seem well worth the tremendous benefits that can be achieved by greatly increasing life safety for families and firefighters. These provisions were extensively debated over many years, and research and real world usage in homes across the country prove that the decision to add sprinklers to the residential code was a good one. It would be a shame to see Florida move away from safer homes," Rochman concluded. [Full story](#)

USFA Coffee Break Training: Special Sprinkler Examples

The [previous installment of Coffee Break Training](#) described fire sprinklers that are intended for particular applications. This [firefighter training](#) vignette, "Special Sprinkler Examples," provides eight conditions where they might be installed. [More](#)

Residential Sprinkler System Bill Floating Around Washington Legislature

A bill that would slightly amend RCW 18.160.050, RCW 82.02.100 and RCW 70.119A.180 is floating around in the Washington legislature this session. While not an earth-shattering

measure, the bill seeks to encourage builders, homeowners and water purveyors to voluntarily install sprinkler systems in private residences. [More](#)

Fire Sprinklers to Be Required in Many New Chicago Homes

St. Charles could possibly be one of the municipalities incorporating the new 2009 International Codes. The codes mandate fire sprinklers in all new townhouses and, beginning Jan. 1, 2011, in new one- and two-family homes and town-homes. Each municipality in Illinois can choose whether or not to mandate fire sprinklers and [this] undoubtedly will be a contentious issue for years to come. [Continued](#)

Recent Apartment Fire Illustrates the Benefit of Residential Sprinklers

Firefighters responded to two residential fires in one Virginia city. The first had a sprinkler system and is still standing with minimal damage; the second was not protected by a fire sprinkler system and was not so fortunate. [More](#)

Editorial: *The Sprinkler Controversy: Whatever Happened To State's Rights?*

Forget about healthcare, when did it become necessary to establish a national sprinkler mandate? That's what some states are saying about a vote - perhaps not a mandate, but certainly a super strong suggestion - by the [International Code Council](#) to require sprinklers inside all new homes, which was subsequently written into the International Residential Code. [Continued](#)

Carbon Monoxide Protection In the News...

Carbon Monoxide Alarm Considerations for Code Authorities

Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms play an important role in protecting the public against carbon monoxide poisoning. Having a basic understanding of CO poisoning, CO alarms, how they are listed, and how they are to be installed and maintained is an important consideration for code authorities, especially those in jurisdictions where installation of CO alarms is required.

[Download PDF](#)

Other Home Fire Safety News...

IAFC Asking Members to Comment on Proposed New NFPA Document on Fire Investigation, Code Enforcement and Public Education

In 2009, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Fire & Life Safety Section asked the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to establish a new document on the organization, operation, deployment and evaluation of code enforcement, public fire and life safety education and fire investigation operations. The NFPA Standards Council considered this request at its March 2010 meeting. After review of all the information before them, the Council voted to publish a Notice of Receipt of the request and to solicit public comment on the need for the document and information on resources available on the subject matter. The IAFC strongly urges its members to submit comments in support of this action. Send your comments to Secretary Standards Council, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169 or stds_admin@nfpa.org.

Residential Fire Sprinkler 2-Day Training Coming to Hanover, PA, and Camp Hill, PA, in April 2010

A live 2-day residential fire sprinkler training seminar has been prepared by Fire Smarts, LLC, to educate participants in Pennsylvania on the IRC P2904 and NFPA 13D standard that covers the installation of sprinkler systems in one- and two-family homes. [More info](#)

For information on the Residential Fire Safety Institute please contact Lane Wintermute, Field Director, at lwintermute@firesafehome.org