



Residential Fire Safety Institute

Operation Life Safety

"Working Together for a Lifesaving Solution"

OLS NEWSFLASH

May 2010

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Residential Sprinklers In State News...

CALIFORNIA:

[Editorial: Sacramento County Housing prices to rise with new sprinkler requirement](#)

"It's clear to us that sprinklers save lives," said Daniel Berlant, Cal Fire spokesman. "They reduce the injuries, and they really protect millions and millions of dollars in property." The California state Building Standards Commission says its numbers show the extra cost is worth it. With almost half of the fire departments reporting to the state, 44 deaths occurred in homes without sprinklers last year while no deaths occurred in homes with sprinklers.

GEORGIA:

[Legislature: Locals can't require fire sprinklers in houses](#)

Georgia House Bill 1196 prohibits local governments, and the state, from requiring fire sprinklers in new houses and duplexes. The Senate approved the legislation 45-7 and since it had already passed the House, the bill moves to Gov. Sonny Perdue for his signature.

[Senate Bars Residential Sprinkler Requirement](#)

In a 45-7 vote today, the Senate approved legislation that prevents cities and counties from requiring sprinkler systems in residential structures with fewer than three units.

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

[Lawmakers weigh sprinkler benefits, cost](#)

The New Hampshire State Legislature is set to vote on a bill that would bar the state fire marshal and, at least temporarily, local communities from requiring builders of new one- and two-family homes to install sprinkler systems. The ban on cities and towns requiring residential sprinklers would come in the form of a three-year moratorium on sprinkler requirements for one- and two-family homes. That ban would not include communities that already have such requirements, according to the bill .

PENNSYLVANIA:

[Editorial: Patriot News Editorial Board "Home sprinkler systems are worth it"](#)

While that debate rages on, we have in Pennsylvania a tested example of how a sprinkler mandate can work. Upper Merion Township in Montgomery County was the first municipality to enact a sprinkler requirement back in 1988. Although builders balked and said home construction would decline, statistics from the township show that after the ordinance passed the number of homes built rose.

Additional Information from the state of Pennsylvania:

There has been a great deal of activity in Pennsylvania this month, [click here](#) for more news.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

[Fire Safety bargain struck - Senate puts off sprinkler rule for 3 extra years](#)

After 2013, home builders will be required to install residential fire sprinklers if a bill passed Tuesday in the S.C. Senate gets final approval. In February, the state building council adopted the international code requiring all new construction to have sprinklers. The new code will go into effect in 2011 if no legislation is passed to prevent it, but the bill that passed the Senate Tuesday would delay the code until Jan. 1, 2014.

Additional Information from the state of South Carolina:

A great deal of activity has been happening in South Carolina this month. For additional related SC stories, [click here](#).

TENNESSEE:

[Franklin consider tougher sprinkler rules](#)

Franklin, Tennessee, City Aldermen are set to adopt the new 2009 International Residential Building Code in the weeks ahead. Franklin must periodically update its building code requirements and now uses the 2006 code. Aldermen will have a special session devoted to fire sprinklers sometime later this summer and will adopt that measure separately from the larger code. Franklin leaders can choose to opt out of any part of the code. "It's a board decision and a community dialogue," said Eric Stuckey, city administrator.

[Similar story - Chattanooga, Tenn.](#)

TEXAS:

[Sprinkler incentive package narrowly passes](#)

The Rowlett, Texas, city council voted 4-3 to pass an incentive package to encourage new home builders to install residential fire sprinkler systems. "Fire sprinklers are a wonderful thing. I think we need more of them in homes. If I had my preference I would simply require them. (Unfortunately we are) prohibited by the state from doing so. Staff has presented (the cost as) \$2,200 to \$2,300 per home. That's millions of dollars that would have to come from the citizens. At the end of the day the citizens would be the one subsidizing them. I don't think the citizens should have to pay the cost to get it done," Councilman Chris Kilgore said.

Carbon Monoxide Protection In the News...

[New Law to require home carbon monoxide detectors](#)

California homeowners will be required to install carbon monoxide detectors starting in July 2011 under a bill signed Friday by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that is aimed at preventing deaths and injuries caused by poisoning from the odorless, colorless gas. CO detectors must be installed in existing single-family homes that have

a fossil-fuel burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage, starting in mid-2011. All other residential units will have to have the detectors in place by Jan. 1, 2013.

[Failing to install or maintain a CO detector in your home or apartment could carry a \\$200 fine under penalties. - Canada \(North Bay, Ontario\)](#)

A bylaw making it mandatory for every house and apartment in North Bay with a fuel-burning appliance or attached garage to be equipped with a carbon monoxide detector came into effect last October. Under the proposal, \$200 fines could be issued to owners and occupants for a number of infractions, including failing to install and maintain the devices, but also failing to supply alarm instructions, failing to ensure the devices are tested annually and intentionally disabling a device.

Other Home Fire Safety News...

[Firefighters begin issuing citations instead of police](#)

In one Illinois town firefighters are no longer calling police to the scene of illegal burns or fire code violations. This has started immediately, said Danville Public Safety Director Larry Thomason. He said firefighters have undergone training in ordinances pertaining to the city's fire prevention code and writing citations.

[NVFC, ICC Partner on rural area fire prevention program](#)

The International Code Council received a \$133,000 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Department of Homeland Security to implement a collaborative program with the [National Volunteer Fire Council \(NVFC\)](#) designed to reduce rural community fire hazards and other potential dangers in residential homes. The grant will fund a coordinated public education outreach effort between building code officials and the volunteer fire community aimed at higher risk rural communities.

[Nonprofit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Receives Grant](#)

A new federal grant awarded to the nonprofit [Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition \(HFSC\)](#) will help the educational organization work with the fire service to increase awareness of home fire sprinkler facts at the local level. The grant also supports HFSC outreach and interaction with the homebuilding industry in order to underscore the life-saving benefits of building new houses with installed fire sprinkler protection.

Training/Reports/Tools...

A host of new training opportunities, special reports and valuable tools have become available recently. Please [click here](#) for additional information on these opportunities.