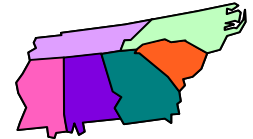




REGIONAL REPORT

Tennessee/South East Edition



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

March 16, 2010 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.

Collierville, Tennessee Fire Sprinkler extinguishes Fire

The Collierville Fire Department responded to a oxygen tank leaking at a single family residence. Upon arrival the officer reported seeing a little smoke. After checking the officer gave his disposition, "WE HAD A SMALL FIRE IN A BEDROOM EXTINGUISHED BY THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM".



The referenced call occurred at 6:30pm March 2, 2010 on Friendship Cove. This home was one of ten Habitat for Humanity homes constructed in late 1999, early 2000. The (13D) sprinkler systems were donated and installed by Security Fire Protection of Memphis, Tennessee with my staff assisting with insulation.

The fire appears to have started from an arching electrical receptacle that ignited a large pile of clothing and bedding material that were on the floor. The fire was extinguished with only one head activating. There were no reported injuries and the loss is estimated for contents and structure to be \$3,000.00 on an appraised \$86,000.00 structure. The fire was extinguished before the first arriving engine company and the occupants were able to continue to occupy the residence.

"For 10 years this instant firefighter has been watching and waiting for this exact moment to do it's intended job... save life and property!"



Buddy Billings, Jr.
Chief of Fire
Prevention
Collierville Fire and
Rescue
1251 Peterson Lake
Collierville, TN. 38017

South Carolina Builders fight sprinkler proposal (It never ends – Editor)

Systems should not be mandatory in homes, Home Builders says

Home builders are not pleased with the decision Wednesday by the S.C. Building Codes Council to adopt modifications to the proposed building code that would require installation of sprinkler systems in all new residential construction.

"Our position is that sprinkler systems should not be mandatory," said Phillip Ford, executive vice president of the Charleston Trident Home Builders Association.

"If the citizens would like sprinklers in their homes, that should be an option, not a mandatory requirement."

The installation of a sprinkler system will add from \$6,000 to \$8,000 to the cost of a new home, he said. "It's going to knock a lot of people out of the market."

Fire safety considerations in new residential construction under present building codes already are saving lives, Ford said. "If you look at what is mandated now to protect folks, we have interconnected, hard-wired smoke detectors and firewalls between the garage and the house," he said.

"The houses, the way they are constructed now, they're built so people can get out."

Proponents of mandatory residential sprinklers have said fire insurance premiums will decrease, but Ford said there is no guarantee of a discount on premiums.

"What we've seen is that it varies from company to company," he said.

Currently, smoke detectors that are required in new homes save about 95 percent of lives, he said. Pending legislation in the S.C. Senate, Senate Bill 1057 would undo the action taken Wednesday by the Building Code Council, Ford said.

Fire sprinkler system installed to protect loved ones, historic home in Franklin, Tennessee

150-year-old Mills-Crosby home now protected by residential fire sprinklers

Franklin, TN – A trip to Las Vegas left Franklin resident Bob Crosby no longer willing to "roll the dice" when it came to home safety.

Crosby, who owns the historic Mills-Crosby home at 211 Lewisburg Avenue, said, "I was in Las Vegas and tuned in to a channel featuring the benefits of residential sprinkler systems. I decided that's what I needed."

He explained, "I always worried about fire because I live in a 150-year old house. With children, grandchildren and friends in the home, I always worried about what we'd do. If it caught on fire it would be like a can of gasoline."

Crosby, who is retired, hired Harbin Fire Protection of Franklin to install the system. The project was completed last fall.



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"It is easier and less expensive to install sprinklers in new construction, rather than retrofit," said Crosby, who added, "But it's negligible. When I realized the potential for disaster was there I couldn't ignore that. I had to do something about it." Crosby said that he sleeps easier at night now that he has a sprinkler system, "It's peace of mind; I don't worry about it at all."

The sprinklers Crosby installed were recessed in the ceiling and covered with a small circular plate that is flush with the ceiling. He says they are inconspicuous. "You just don't even notice them," said Crosby.

Each sprinkler protects an area below, and when heated by fire, activates. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire.



Crosby said he insulated the fire sprinkler pipes as required by codes, but because he had freezing concerns, as an extra precaution he had remote thermometers placed in the attic and basement. He can look at indicators in his dining room or laundry room to make sure the pipes are not getting too cold. "Even in this cold weather it's stayed well above freezing," said Crosby. "It hasn't even been close."

According to Rick Warwick of the Williamson County Historical Society, it is believed that the original part of Crosby's house was built around 1866 by Elizabeth Pugh Mills. He said it is hard to determine the exact date the present house was completed. Following Mrs. Mills' death in 1907, the house remained in her family until 1939. Crosby has owned the home for about 30 years. Warwick says historic or not, home fire sprinklers are a good idea, "Adding fire protection in the form of sprinklers to any home is a worthwhile addition. Not only does it protect the physical house, it is a safety-net for those loved ones inside in the home."

While Franklin has not yet adopted the requirement, Crosby says it makes sense. "It's a positive thing for a community and I think progressive communities will adopt this," said Crosby. Franklin Fire Marshal Andy King agrees, saying, "Sprinkler systems have been proven to save property and lives, including the lives of firefighters. They have also been proven to dramatically reduce the negative environmental impact of fires, by keeping them small." King said that because fire sprinkler systems react so quickly, they significantly reduce the heat, flames and smoke produced in a fire, thereby reducing fire damage, water usage and air pollution.

NFPA shows that home fire sprinkler systems control fires with only 10 to 26 gallons of water per minute. In a home without sprinklers, a fire department often arrives after the fire has grown to dangerous levels. At that point, a number of hose streams must be applied to the fire at 125 gallons per minute or more for each hose. In sprinklered residences, 90 percent of fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler.

King said many people mistakenly believe that sprinklers are expensive, "In reality, they only add around \$1.60 per square foot to the cost of a home," said King. "So in a 2000 square foot home that would add \$3,200.00," said King. "This is about the same as upgrading your countertops or flooring, and it's something that can save your life and protect your biggest investment."

Crosby said any home he renovates or builds in the future will be equipped with residential fire sprinklers. King said he is also hoping Crosby's actions will encourage others considering building or renovating homes in Franklin to take proactive fire protection steps. To learn more about home fire sprinklers, please contact the Franklin Fire Department at (615) 791-3270 or visit our website at www.franklintn.gov/fire.

NFPA sprinkler report

NFPA's new report, "[U.S. Experience with Sprinklers and Other Automatic Fire Extinguishing Equipment](#)" by John R. Hall, Jr., includes statistics on how often sprinklers are reported in fires, by property use, and their estimated impact in reducing the average loss of life and property per fire. It also features statistics on performance, usage and reliability of sprinklers and other automatic extinguishing systems.



Compared to properties without automatic extinguishing equipment, the death rate per fire in sprinklered homes is lower by 83%. And for most property uses, damage per fire is lower by 40-70% in sprinklered properties.

- Because sprinkler systems are so demonstrably effective, they can make a major contribution to fire protection in any property. NFPA 101®, NFPA 1, and NFPA 5000® have required sprinklers in all new one- and two-family dwellings since the 2006 editions. The 2009 International Residential Code also added requirements for sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings, effective January 2011.
- Sprinklers were reported in only 4% of occupied homes (including apartments) in 2007 and in only 5% of reported fires in homes (including apartments) in 2003-2007. Clearly, there is great potential for expanded installation.

Tennessee Fire Service Coalition - Fire Department Day on the Hill 2010

Yesterday's Fire Department Day on the Hill was a huge success with more than 114 fire service leaders from all parts of the state participating. Those who had made appointments with their legislators in advance were probably more successful in visiting their representatives and senators than those who didn't however many of the fire service members took the opportunity of having lunch with them in the Capital. More than 55 legislators attended the lunch which was catered by Chappy's. Chappy's Catering was selected because of their reputation to get legislators to come and eat with different groups and organizations. Well that worked also with more than 55 legislators from the House and Senate eating with our group.

A highlight of the day was the bill presentations to the Lewis Baker Family on naming the Fire Academy Pump Building after him. In addition, Helen Brown was also surprised to be presented with a bill naming a street after her on the fire academy grounds. Both of these individuals have been icons for the Tennessee Fire Service in so many ways. Pictures of the presentations will follow in another email.



The fire service leaders got the opportunity to have their picture made in front of the Capital

NFSA Offers Online Support

Efforts to block the adoption of residential fire-sprinkler regulations prompted the National Fire Sprinkler Association to an [online resource toolbox](#), which will provide community leaders with the information necessary to make the case for fire-

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sprinkler code adoption.

“The NFSA has experienced an upswing in requests for information regarding local code adoption and/or standalone fire sprinkler legislation,” President John Viniello said.

The NFSA’s free resource toolbox offers reports, articles, documents and brochures related to residential fire sprinklers and fire safety that provide guidance for making the case for fire-sprinkler code adoption. The goal of the toolbox is to highlight resources that have proved beneficial at the local level. Reports include the *Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment* and the *Residential Fire Sprinklers and Housing Economics /A Legislator’s Guide to Life Safety*.

“Local community leaders need all of the latest information in one place, where it is easy to access and use for their specific needs,” said Shane Ray, the organization’s director of public fire protection. “It can be overwhelming when you realize how many resources are available.”

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced In Senate

We need your help in getting our Senators to sign up as a co-sponsors, please use the Cap Wiz program on the NFSA Web Site.

To view the up to date information on the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act please go to www.nfsa.org or click on the