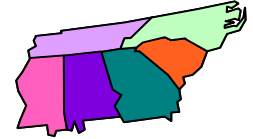




# REGIONAL REPORT

Tennessee/South East Edition



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## **Join the ICC Today, Vote in Baltimore to Preserve Fire Sprinklers in IRC**

Just about a year ago to the day the International Code Congress (ICC) membership voted in the affirmative to include residential fire sprinkler requirements in the body of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC), potentially representing an unprecedented milestone in the history of public fire safety. It was an achievement realized through a tremendous amount of fire sprinkler industry support and that of its allies.

Since that historical meeting last year in Minneapolis, the very same requirements adopted to prevent the catastrophic fire losses experienced every year in this country have come under attack by the homebuilding industry. For example, they talk about exorbitant installation costs and how newer homes don't burn, all of which, of course, we in the fire protection industry know simply is not the truth. In fact, recent studies have shown for about \$1.61 per square foot, a fire sprinkler system can be installed in the construction of a new home, preventing premature failure of today's often used lightweight construction in the event of fire.

With the next test of residential sprinkler requirements in the IRC being hearings scheduled for the last week of October in Baltimore, now is the time to make plans to attend in support of the current regulations. The first step necessary, if you are not already, is to become an ICC member. To be assured eligibility to vote in Baltimore, the individual membership Building Safety Professional category should be used. Membership costs \$100.00 per year and comes with the ICC code of choice. Apply as an individual in your own name and address, not a business. Corporate membership is not recommended.

**Since the deadline for voting eligibility of new ICC members is 10 days prior to the start of the hearing, the membership process must be completed by Wednesday, October 14, 2009.**

Detailed Information about how to join the ICC can be found at their website at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

## Let NFSA Help You Learn About Residential Sprinklers: Are You Prepared for the 2009 IRC?

NFSA has the following seminars available to help you better understand residential sprinkler requirements. These seminars are designed for code officials, design professionals and for anyone involved with the installation of residential sprinklers:

1. **Sprinklers for Dwellings (NFPA 13D):** This one-day seminar details the installation and layout of an NFPA 13 D sprinkler system.
2. **Homes to High-rise:** This one-day seminar covers the differences between NFPA 13, NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D residential sprinkler requirements.
3. **Layout and Hydraulic Calculation of NFPA 13D Residential Sprinkler Systems:** This three-day seminar will provide the layout technician or anyone who deals with residential systems with the knowledge and skills to layout a NFPA 13D residential system.
4. **On-Line Seminars (NFSA Academy)** several 1 to 1.5 hour classes related to residential sprinklers are also available.

To register or review seminar details for any one of these seminars you can go to the NFSA web site [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) and click on the white button (left side) marked "Seminars". You may also contact Dawn Fitzmaurice – Training Coordinator at (845) 878 – 4200 EXT. 133 or email Dawn at [Seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:Seminars@nfsa.org).

***The following letter was sent from NFSA's President John Viniello to the CEO of Habitat for Humanity due to Habitats opposition to residential fire sprinklers.***

Mr. Jonathan Reckford  
CEO  
Habitat for Humanity International  
121 Habitat Street  
Americus, GA 31709

Dear Mr. Reckford,

Your organization's recent opposition to the fire sprinkler mandate in Michigan has not gone unnoticed. We at NFSA are extremely disheartened with your stand against the most valuable fire safety device a residence can contain. We fail to understand how an organization that is dedicated to helping humanity can take a stand against something proven to save lives, especially since many of the people waiting for Habitat for Humanity homes lost their original place of residence in a fire. There has never been a multiple fatality in any building with a properly operating fire sprinkler system. NEVER.

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Personally, as president of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, I take great umbrage with your organization's stand against mandating home fire sprinkler systems. If your "habitats" are, as you say, for "humanity," wouldn't it follow that you would do all you could to protect the humans that are inhabiting the homes that you build?

Many of our members have donated, and continue to donate, materials and labor to your organization's cause, not, obviously, for profit, but to ensure the residents of your newly built homes are guaranteed a safe place to live. Fire sprinklers save lives, reduce property loss and can help cut homeowner insurance premiums. We at NFSA believe that all people deserve this protection and our members work tirelessly, and often selflessly, to bring this invaluable safety resource to the general public.

Will our members profit if these mandates pass? Of course they will. The last time I looked there was nothing un-American about making a profit. As I'm sure you are well aware, homebuilders substantially mark-up bids from their sub-contractors. Do they make a profit or do they give the homes away? The difference here is that the product we represent has been proven to save lives and protect property.

Eight out of ten fire deaths occur in the home and most firefighter deaths result from fighting residential fires. Nationwide, nearly 3,000 people die in residential fires each year. To NFSA, these figures are unacceptable, especially when there is a proven solution to these tragedies. Fire sprinkler systems have been saving lives for over 100 years. We think every person deserves the right to be safe in their own home.

I think it's time that Habitat for Humanity felt the same way.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.

Sincerely,  
John A. Viniello  
President

From the State of South Carolina:

## ***Expect sprinkler battle to heat up on two fronts***

You don't have to tell firefighters that sprinkler systems are their best life- and property-saving allies. That's why so many have worked so hard for their mandatory installation, with the current battle centered on new residential construction.

Unfortunately, what still is a very uphill fight in this state will increase in intensity, beginning next month.

On Aug. 26, the S.C. Building Code Council will begin considering a long-sought change in the 2009 national building code, approved against tough odds at an International Code Council convention last year. Approval of the revised code, which requires sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes and

townhouses, beginning in 2011, is up to each of the 46 states that now adhere to the code. Home builders are expected to continue to be among the most outspoken opponents.

Meanwhile, last year's effort by S.C. lawmakers to mollify sprinkler advocates with a voluntary incentive program has sputtered. But there now is some hope that despite financial hard times, the city of Charleston will be among those willing to activate the legislation which entails some loss of revenue both in terms of local property and state income taxes.

It should be noted that if the state agrees to mandate sprinklers in new residences after 2011, the voluntary incentive program would not apply to those properties, thus reducing the potential tax revenue loss.

It's no exaggeration to say that fire officials feel passionately about the need for residential sprinklers. That's because homes are where most fires occur and where the vast majority of lives are lost — nearly 3,000 nationwide in 2007.

But fire officials also recognize that new construction is the only realistic hope for a home sprinkler mandate. Sadly, a number of states already have decided to put off adopting that 2009 code change.

State Fire Marshal John Reich makes a strong case for why this state should be at the forefront of adopting the residential sprinkler mandate, with the number of fire deaths — 53 already this year, with 44 in residences — at the top of his list.

### ***3rd Annual Michael Minger Memorial Golf Classic***

Will be held on September 28, 2009 Hermitage Golf Course 3939 Old Hickory Blvd. Old Hickory, TN 37138 615-847-4001 in Nashville. Tennessee.

***Golf Registration*** Join us for the Third Annual Michael Minger Memorial Golf Classic at The Hermitage Golf Course Old Hickory, TN on September 28th. Scramble starts at 1:30 PM sharp. Registration begins at 12:00 noon. A Southern catfish/roasted chicken buffet with all the trimmings will be served after tournament play. Please join us for dinner, awards and prize giveaways.

**PAYMENTS FOR GOLF CLASSIC FEES ARE DUE PRIOR TO THE GOLF TOURNAMENT.**  
The Golf Tournament Fees payable to the Michael Minger Memorial Golf Classic P.O. Box 721 Niceville, Florida 32588 no later than August 15, 2009

Dress code restricts jeans, denim shorts, cut-offs, and t-shirts. We expect to fill available spots in this tournament, so please register early. Tournament pairings will be player's choice. For course information and directions please contact [www.hermitagegolf.com](http://www.hermitagegolf.com) .  
Need More Information please contact: Gail Minger 850-621-5161 or email: [minger4family@aol.com](mailto:minger4family@aol.com)

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## ***Update on the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009***

- Re-filed in House February 25, 2009 by Mr. Langevin (D-RI) and Mr. Cantor (R-VA).
- Assigned as HR 1194 to House Ways and Means Committee
- Currently has 93 cosponsors
- 13 Committee members
- Has support of Committee Chair Charles Rangel (D-NY)
- Has support of Select Revenue Measures Sub-Committee Chair Richard Neal (D-MA)
- Mr. Pascrell (D-NJ) has agreed to be W&M Committee “Bull Dog” on behalf of Mr. Langevin. Dinner with Pascrell scheduled for Wednesday July 22. NFSA NJ principles to attend
- Rescored at 2.6B with retro to April of 03
- 5 Year Sunset 1.7B with retro to April 03
- Rescored at 1.79B with retro eliminated and effective 2009
- 5 Year Sunset with retro eliminated 888M
- General expectation is to eliminate the retro and consider 5 year sunset
- Still negotiating Senate companion bill
- Senator Carper (D-DE) a member of Senate Finance Committee has agreed to sponsor
- Working through issues involving a primary Republican cosponsor
- Presently focusing on Senator Cornyn (R-TX)
- Still expecting tax legislation in second session of 111<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Better feel for schedule after Congress returns from long summer recess after Labor Day
- After September 1 Jim Dalton will be freed up to concentrate on getting the FSIA passed this Congress
- Will need to intensify recruitment of support and input of allied support groups beginning this Fall
- A big “thanks” to David Vandeyar and Jeanne Kozlowski for their efforts regarding funding of NFSA PAC

***To view the up to date information on the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act please go to [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) or click on the***

***U.S. Senate***

**Fire Sprinkler  
Incentive Act**

## ***Confirms Chief Kelvin Cochran as U.S. Fire Administrator***

U.S. Senate confirmed Chief Kelvin Cochran as the U.S. fire administrator. The U.S. Fire Administration [announced the appointment](#) mid-afternoon today.

"This is a really great day for the U.S. fire service. We thank the senators for confirming Chief Cochran for this important role as the nation's preeminent fire chief," said Chief Larry J. Grorud, president of the IAFC. "He's one of the fire service's most inspirational leaders and will do an excellent job as the U.S. fire administrator."

Chief Cochran delivered the [keynote address](#) at [Fire-Rescue International 2009](#) in Dallas on Friday, August 28.

The [IAFC endorsed his nomination](#) by President Obama. IAFC President Grorud and Executive Director Mark Light attended his nomination hearing on Wednesday, August 5, to show the association's support.

Currently the fire chief of Atlanta, Georgia, Chief Cochran has over 28 years of fire service experience and is a well-known fire service leader. Previous to his position as Atlanta's fire chief, he served for many years with the fire department of Shreveport, La., a career that started as a firefighter and culminated with his appointment as fire chief in 1999.

Chief Cochran served as the IAFC's 1st vice president in 2007 and 2nd vice president from 2006 to 2007. He was president of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs' Association from 2005 to 2006. He currently serves on the Board of Visitors of the National Fire Academy.

In the USFA news release today, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said, "Chief Cochran brings extensive experience to a critical position within our Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. The USFA plays a critical role in our efforts to mitigate, prepare, and respond to disasters and emergencies, and I look forward to working with Chief Cochran as we continue to build our national emergency response team."

### ***University of Tennessee prepares for students to move in for the 2009 School Year***

The **University of Tennessee** is preparing to welcome its new freshman class.

UT requires all first year students to live in its residence halls unless they're commuting daily from home.

"We're excited," said Jerry Adams, from UT Housing. "This is the most exciting time of year for us because students and new freshmen are moving in. Everybody is excited and anxious to be here."

About 4,500 freshmen will begin moving onto campus this weekend. To get ready for the increased amount of students, UT is putting the finishing touches on 12 improved residence halls. The renovations include upgraded carpeting and tile as well as a **brand new fire sprinkler system.**

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Members from 70 clubs and organizations plan to set up around campus this weekend to help the new students move in. They'll be joined by nearly 400 volunteers wearing orange shirts.