

International Residential Code Fire Sprinkler Coalition

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL WEB CAST TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
Program Aims to Inform Code Officials and Others About Important Safety Feature For Homes

AUSTIN, Texas (April 16, 2007) – In the past 30 years, more than 100,000 Americans have lost their lives in residential fires. Although smoke alarms have significantly improved home fire safety in recent years, fire-safety experts are actively promoting the combination of residential sprinkler systems and smoke alarms as the basic fire protection package for all new homes. Although there are over 100,000 homes in the U.S. equipped with residential sprinkler systems today, the proposed “mainstreaming” of fire sprinklers as a standard feature in new home construction has caused many who are unfamiliar with this life-saving technology to want to learn more.

In response, the International Residential Code (IRC) Fire Sprinkler Coalition today announced plans to host a free educational Web cast on home fire sprinklers. The program will broadcast on May 3, 2007, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

“This Web cast will serve as a tremendous educational tool for anyone who wants to learn the facts about residential sprinklers,” said retired California State Fire Marshal and IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition spokesman Ron Coleman, who will host the program. “The fact is, sprinklers are a simple, cost-effective way to protect your family, your home and your possessions – and the Web cast will demonstrate this by answering many questions on people’s minds about the topic. We welcome all interested individuals to sign up and participate.”

The program will feature information about how residential sprinkler systems work, including special topics such as installation costs; designing systems to work with tanks, wells and small water meters; and installation of systems in freezing climates. Interviews with builders, building officials, homeowners, legislators, sprinkler contractors, plumbers and many leading safety advocates will be included in the presentation. In addition, narrated video showing burn demonstrations and several types of sprinkler system installations, including CPVC and PEX materials and dedicated versus multipurpose layouts, will be presented.

Interested participants can register to participate at http://www.twlk.com/fire/IRC_home.html. Posted at this site until May 3rd is a test video stream, *American Heat: Fires that Caused Change*. We invite you to view this exciting video on historic fires and their impact on codes and standards. The program examines some of the nation's most significant fires such as Cocanut Grove, the MGM Hotel and the Beverly Hills Supper Club.

For those who are unable to participate in the initial Web cast, the program will be made available at a later date on DVD and for online viewing at www.IRCFireSprinkler.org.

About IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition - *The IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition’s mission is to promote the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems by educating the public on the value of residential sprinklers and supporting residential sprinkler legislation. More information can be found at www.ircfiresprinkler.com.*

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