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Residential Fire Safety Institute

Operation Life Safety

"Working Together for a Lifesaving Solution"

OLS NEWSFLASH

June 2011

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In This Issue

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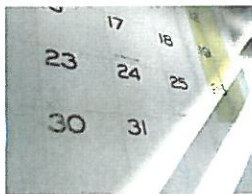
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Mark Your Calendar



**Bridging the Gap:
A Guide to
Implementing a
Residential
Sprinkler**

Feature Article...

New Online Vision 20/20 Fire Prevention Advocacy Toolkit

The Institution of Fire Engineers USA Branch (IFE-USA) is launching a new web-based Vision 20/20 Fire Prevention Advocacy Toolkit that gives local fire departments the tools they need to prove the value of fire prevention in saving lives and reducing the impact of fire on a community and its economy. Available at www.strategicfire.org.

"There has never been something like this that local fire chiefs can use to prove the value of fire prevention programs," said Vision 20/20 Project Manager Jim Crawford. "The Vision 20/20 Fire Prevention Advocacy Toolkit gives them the information that they can use in reaching out to community leaders, city officials and other decision makers to prove the impact that fire prevention programs have in not only saving lives but making communities economically sound and viable."

The Vision 20/20 Fire Prevention Advocacy Toolkit can be found at www.StrategicFire.org. You can also learn more by following us on Twitter @strategicfire and Facebook at www.Facebook.com/strategicfire

Residential Sprinklers In The News...

National

Requirement Workshop

July 11, 2011
Georgia
Location TBA

July 14, 2011
NASFM Conference
New Orleans, LA

August 26, 2011
Fire Rescue
International
Atlanta, GA

Quick Links

RFSI

NASFM

ICC

HFSC

NFPA

USFA

[NFPA Head Stresses the Importance of Residential Fire Sprinklers](#)

As NFPA President James M. Shannon addressed the attendees at the opening ceremonies of the group's annual conference in Boston on Sunday, he stressed the need to support the fire service in the effort to get home fire sprinkler systems required across the county.

"The home builders lobby is doing everything it can to stop us and, as we all know, they have a lot of clout," Shannon said. His address is available on the NFPA's [website](#).

He likened the debate to when the need for airbags in automobiles was argued. He said that the auto companies "fought tooth and nail" to keep them out and contended they would make their vehicles unaffordable.

Shannon noted that battle went on for years, though the benefits of airbags were quickly apparent after the federal government moved to mandate them.

[Representative Jim Langevin Announces Bipartisan Fire Safety Bill](#)

In a continuing effort to protect the thousands of Americans who lose their lives each year because of buildings that lack adequate fire prevention systems, Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI) teamed with Congressman Aaron Schock (R-IL) to introduce legislation that would reduce the cost and impact of fires by ensuring automatic sprinklers are placed in all multi-unit residential and commercial structures.

Langevin's bill includes automated fire sprinkler systems as section 179 property, allowing small and medium sized businesses to fully expense the cost of a sprinkler retrofit for structures as large as 50,000 square feet. High rise buildings will also see their depreciation schedule decreased to 15 years.

[Something is Better than Nothing in Battle for Residential Fire Sprinklers](#)

Well, we in the fire service know how valuable and important residential sprinklers are, so why on almost a daily basis do I see city after city, county after county, and state after state striking down or voting to repeal existing residential sprinkler codes that we have fought for and won?

I know I will upset some purists in the fire service and fire-safety field by saying that we should be compromising on residential fire sprinklers. I have talked to people at NFPA, ICC and others who are

opposed to what I am about to recommend, but I feel it is better to compromise and get some protection than to fight, lose and get no built-in fire protection. I am recommending that in single-family homes, residential sprinklers be installed in the kitchen areas and in the areas where heating equipment is located. OK, there it is. Now, let me make my case. [Read more here.](#)

Note: RFSI provides the above for information, but shares the same concerns mentioned by NFPA and ICC regarding partial sprinkler systems in homes.

A response from NFPA:

[Something is Better than Nothing: Is it?](#)

Subsequent to the Fire Chief online post, above, titled "Something is Better than Nothing in the Battle for Residential Fire Sprinklers," the following comment has been submitted as NFPA's position in response: [Read more....](#)

[NFPA to offer web updates on code changes impacting antifreeze usage in fire sprinkler systems](#)

NFPA will be offering free live web presentations (June 28, July 7, and July 19) on changes to NFPA sprinkler-related codes. The changes were brought about by Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) regarding the use of antifreeze in sprinkler systems. "Based on recent full scale testing of various antifreeze concentrations in sprinkler systems, NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13D, and NFPA 25 have modified the requirements for antifreeze usage through recently approved TIAs," says Matthew Klaus, senior fire protection engineer, who will host the web updates. "The purpose of these broadcasts is to provide a brief history on the use of antifreeze in sprinkler systems along with an explanation of the new requirements and a discussion of alternatives to antifreeze."

State/Local

-Delaware

[Fire officials, Homebuilders Association remain far apart on sprinkler mandate](#)

New Castle County Council continues to be inundated from both sides of the ongoing debate over whether to mandate sprinklers in new home construction as part of the pending revision of the Unified Development Code. Both fire safety and construction lobbyists had supplied council with reams of documents to back up each side's case at council's Land Use Committee meeting held Tuesday at the City/County Building

-Illinois

[Sprinkler ordinance in Boone Co. sparks trustee discussions](#)

Dozens of members of the Boone County Fire Districts storm the Boone County Board room, hoping to keep their board of trustees intact. The fire chiefs say the county is trying to replace three trustees with people who will follow the county's agenda.

-Minnesota

[Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton Vetoes Anti-Sprinkler Bill](#)

Governor Dayton of Minnesota has vetoed [HF460](#), a bill that sailed through the legislature prohibiting the State Building Code, State Fire Code, or any jurisdiction from requiring fire sprinkler systems in single family homes.

He goes on to emphasize his concern for the safety of home occupants and firefighters stating; "I simply do not see how we can further jeopardize the lives of the individuals whose mission is to protect the public and who risk their lives on a daily basis." systems in one- and two-family dwellings in the state building code, and would have also denied local jurisdictions from adopting same.

-Washington State

[Home Fire Sprinkler Incentives Become Law in Washington](#)

State of Washington Governor Chris Gregoire has signed into law legislation providing financial incentives and removing certain barriers impacting the installation of fire sprinkler systems in homes. [HB1295](#) was passed in the House. Its companion, [SB5206](#), moved quickly through the Senate and was submitted to the governor for approval.

The law "exempts homeowners who install fire sprinkler systems from paying the fire operations portion of the impact fee and establishes a fund to be used, in part, for "developing and publishing educational materials related to the effectiveness of residential fire sprinklers."

Carbon Monoxide Detectors In The News...

[Cal Fire: new law July 1 to require carbon monoxide detectors in all homes](#)

Starting July 1, new legislation will go into effect requiring homeowners to install carbon monoxide detectors in every California home; a move Cal Fire officials said in a news release will save lives. A recent study found that nearly nine in 10 California households did not have a CO detector. "Having a CO detector is a small investment that really can help save your life and the lives of your family," said Acting State Fire Marshall Tonya Hoover.

Other News...

Fire Safety

[One- and Two-Family and Multifamily Residential Building Fires Topical Reports](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of two special reports focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in one- and two-family and multifamily residential buildings.

The reports, [One- and Two-Family Residential Building Fires](#) and [Multifamily Residential Building Fires](#), were developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. One- and two-family residential buildings include detached dwellings, manufactured homes, mobile homes not in transit, and duplexes. Multifamily residential buildings consist of structures such as apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, condominiums, and other tenement properties.

[Senate Panel Backs Public-Safety Spectrum Bill](#)

After nearly 10 years of stalled efforts on the issue, the Senate Commerce Committee approved legislation Wednesday designed to finally build a national public-safety broadband network to help first responders communicate during emergencies. It allocates so-called D-block to police and firefighters, contradicting current law, which would sell it off.

The bill would reallocate 10 megahertz of spectrum known as the D-block to public safety officials for the creation of their national broadband network, instead of auctioning off the spectrum to commercial bidders as required by current law.

[Jury recommendations 'about saving people's lives'](#)

Recommendations made by a jury Monday at a coroner's inquest into the death of Diane Anderson and two of her children are "a great start," but do not fully address the "system failure" that enabled them to slip through the cracks, says the family's lawyer, Roger Rowe. "What happened here was a system failure," Rowe told reporters. "And part of the recommendations is about filling those gaps."

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

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