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USA SPRINKLER FITTERS ASSOCIATION SUPPORT RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS

The USA Sprinkler Fitters Association urges all eligible voting members of the International Code Council (ICC) to vote in favor of overturning the decision to disapprove IRC Proposal RB64-07/08, which will provide a requirement for fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings in the International Residential Code (IRC).

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2006, 79% of all structure fires in the United States occurred in residential properties. In that same year, there were 3,245 civilian deaths resulting from fire in the United States, and 2,580 of all civilian fire deaths, or about 80% occurred in the home. Another 12,925 civilians were injured in residential structure fires.

Additionally, monetary losses from structure fire property damage in 2006 was approximately \$9.6 billion, and approximately 6.9 billion of that total arising from fires in residential properties. A total of 89 firefighters were killed that year fighting fires in the United States, and 83,400 were injured.

“These statistics are alarming, and provide clear and convincing evidence for the need for fire sprinklers in our homes. It is time that we defeat those opposed to residential fire sprinklers, so that we may reduce the number of fires and the catastrophic affects that home fires leave behind”, said Stan Smith, President of the USA Sprinkler Fitters Association.

The USA Sprinkler Fitters Association supports the adoption of IRC Proposal RB64-07/08 in the International Residential Code (IRC). The adoption of a provision in our model codes requiring fire sprinklers for our homes is good public policy that will benefit all homeowners, occupants, and first-responders.