



NORTH CAROLINA FIRE MARSHAL'S ASSOCIATION

"Dedicated to the Saving of Life and Property Through Fire Prevention"

c/o NC Dept of Ins/OSFM
322 Chapanoke Road, Ste 200
Raleigh, NC 27603
919-661-5880 x223
919-662-4414 FAX

PRESIDENT

Frank Blackley

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Larry Stanford

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Allen Everette

TREASURER

Ronnie Marsh

SECRETARY

Christian Noles

CHAPLAIN

G.M. Floyd

PAST-PRESIDENT

William C. Rogers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Bender (2008)

Mark Brown (2008)

Travis Crabtree (2009)

Bobby Hedrick (2008)

Robert Owens (2009)

Craig Zglinski (2008)

Press Release

December 5, 2007

Since 2004 in North Carolina 112 people have lost their life in residential fires. In this same time 19,655 residential structures have been damaged or destroyed causing an estimated 210 million dollars in damages.

When introduced, critics identified smoke alarms as an expensive luxury that would not provide an effective response. Since they have been required by the code, they have proven to be the ultimate tool to alerting occupants to fire conditions.

While smoke alarms have proven invaluable to evacuating persons, smoke alarms have limited effectiveness on the very young and the impaired and their operation can be disabled by the occupant. The technology and ability to reduce the loss of life in these fires – estimated at more than 80% - and to significantly reduce property damage is accessible and affordable in the form of residential fire sprinklers.

Residential sprinklers, unlike those found in commercial buildings are a part of the homes cold water plumbing, designed for the occupant to safely evacuate and operate early in the fire. Because of these design criteria residential sprinkler cost 2 percent or less of the total construction cost.

The NC Fire Marshal's Association, along with the NC Firemen's Association, NC Association of Fire Chiefs, NC County Fire Marshal's Association, along with other affiliated organizations will be proposing a residential code change at the NC Building Code Council meeting Dec. 11, 2007, to require residential fire sprinklers in new one and two family dwellings and townhouses meeting certain thresholds. This code change is, in part, a response to the recent fire in Ocean Isle Beach, NC, that lead to the death of seven college-age students and other fire related deaths throughout North Carolina.

For further information you may contact:

Assistant Chief Frank Blackley
Wilmington Fire Department
919-343-3939

Assistant Chief David Douglas
Greensboro Fire Department
336-373-2032

