



PRESS RELEASE

Darien-Woodridge Fire District

7550 Lyman Ave
Darien, IL 60561



Contact Information:

Chief Wayne Messenger 630-910-2200
Fire Prevention Director Robert Morris 630-910-2207

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For Immediate Release

Fire District Participates in Historic Building Code Vote

Darien-Woodridge Fire District's Fire Prevention Director Robert Morris participated in a historic vote of the International Code Council's (ICC) building code on September 21, 2008 in Minneapolis. This vote, which passed by a two-thirds majority of voting members, will require fire sprinklers in all new homes January 1, 2011. Almost 2,000 people from across the nation attended this vote.

The ICC is one of the major code bodies that establishes building and fires codes that local municipalities can adopt. Builders then follow those code requirements when constructing a structure.

National statistics show that loss of life is cut by up to 75%, and property damage is reduced by up to 67% by the installation of home fire sprinklers. In a recent report by the National Fire Protection Association, they found the average cost of installing a home fire sprinkler system in a new home was \$1.61 per sq foot.

Fire sprinklers have been around for well over 100 years in commercial property, with a greater than 96% efficiency record. For over twenty years they have been gaining acceptance in home installations. The first Illinois community to require home fire sprinklers was Long Grove, in 1988. Today in Illinois there are over 55 communities. Long Grove is a community where a city water system does not exist, and each home must have its own well.

The majority of people state they feel the safest in their own homes, but statistics show that 80% of fire deaths occur in homes. Installation of fire sprinklers will undoubtedly save lives, as they will protect those most at risk of dying in fire – the very young, the very old, and those permanently or temporarily disabled.

The ICC was in Minneapolis for a weeklong process to update their 2009 codes. Examples of some of the codes written by the ICC are mechanical, electrical, plumbing, building, fire, fuel gas, and property maintenance.

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