

**Date:** 01 DEC 11

**To:** Board of Building Regulations and Standards  
Executive Office of Public Safety  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

**RE:** Fire Sprinklers in New Construction Dwellings in MA

---

Dear Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations & Standards~

What if we had a cure for Cancer, but didn't use it? We have a cancer in this country called FIRE DEATHS! And we DO have the cure for fire deaths...Fire Sprinklers!

As a 32 year veteran firefighter and now in the fire protection arena, I write to you today because I want to better protect the citizens and firefighters of Massachusetts from fire. The model building codes in use across the U.S. include the provision for fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes. This minimum level of safety saves lives, reduces injuries, lessens the amount of property damage from fire and protects our environment. Why remove it? The facts are clear:

- The risk of dying decreases by about 80 percent when fire sprinklers and smoke alarms are present in the home in the event of a reported fire.
- Only the one or two fire sprinklers in the fire room activate and control the fire in seconds.
- A national study of the cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages \$1.61 per square foot for new construction—similar to what is spent on carpet upgrades or a whirlpool bath.
- Home fires addressed by fire sprinklers have an average of 71% LESS water, fire, smoke, and heat damages as compared to similar home fires without the benefit of automatic fire sprinklers.
- Live fire studies show that Fire Sprinklers protect our environment by using 95% less water and reduce by 98% the fire byproducts which include many Green House Gases!
- Property is protected from destruction—meaning that families who survive a fire will also have a place to live and enough resources to continue living their lives as they did before.

The standards in this country have been raised. The BBRS recently promulgated the Massachusetts building code and took out this critical provision. It is a dangerous precedent to go below the established minimum level of safety and puts all of us in Massachusetts at risk. The least we can do is meet the minimal standards and stop building substandard one- and two-family homes! I urge you to add back in the section in and push out the effective date to provide time for implementation by a year or two. Your action will better protect the citizens of Massachusetts and its firefighters for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Feel free to contact me at anytime with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dominick G. Kasmauskas 