



**Proposed Code Change**  
State Form 41186R

RETURN TO:  
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
CODE SERVICES SECTION  
302 W. Washington Street Room W246  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>
Received 5/10/09
Code 45-09

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Only *TYPED* copy accepted.

(*KEY - Dashed line through material to be deleted, underline material to be added*)

Use second sheet for any material requiring more space.

Code Title International Residential Code		Edition 2009
Section number and title Section R313		Page
Proponent Matt Sigler (CodeSmart, LLC)	Title Owner	
Address 1411 Cottonwood Circle / Noblesville, IN 46062		Phone 317-710-3540

PROPOSED CODE CHANGE (Check One)

Change to read as follows     Add to read as follows     Delete and substitute as follows     **Delete without substitution**

**Delete without substitution Section R313 Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems**

REASON AND FISCAL IMPACT

**Reason(s):**

1. According to NAHB data the national average cost for NFPA 13-D sprinkler systems is \$2.66 - \$6.88 per square foot. Data collected by IBA in Evansville, Fort Wayne, Jasper, South Bend, and Indianapolis confirms NAHB's cost data for Indiana.
2. Because of changes in residential construction technology, improved building code requirements especially for electrical and smoke alarm systems, consumer behavior and the concerted efforts of fire fighters, home builders and other safety advocates, the number of fatal fires has dropped dramatically in the last 20 years. This trend continues and the decline is even more impressive given the significant population growth and growth in housing stock our nation continues to see.

Our population grew 36 percent between 1977 to 2006, according to the U.S. Census, while at the same time the rate of fires per 1,000 population fell 63 percent: from 14.9 in 1977 to 5.5 in 2006. Even more dramatic is the drop in the actual death rate per million persons from house fires. In fact, from 1979-2003, the rate dropped by more than 58 percent, based on data from the Centers for Disease Control. That trend will continue as more new housing stock is constructed and especially as

the maintenance of smoke alarms by home occupants is improved. Furthermore, the fire safety features now required in our building codes will adequately protect the home throughout its life without the need for fire sprinklers.

3. Mandating fire sprinklers does not target homes where fire deaths are occurring. New technology and modern building codes make today's new homes safer. Code provisions and technological innovations that provide an increase in safety are:

- Fire blocking
- Emergency escape and rescue openings
- Electrical circuit breakers
- Outlet spacing and capacity
- Adequate HVAC systems
- Interconnected hardwired smoke alarms with battery backup
- Smoke developed and fire spread ratio of interior finishing materials

4. USFA and NFPA data continue to affirm that the vast majority of home fire fatalities occur when there are no operational smoke alarms.

Thanks to widespread installation of residential smoke alarm systems in recent years, Americans are safer than they've ever been. A 2006 USFA study on the presence of working smoke alarms in residential fires from 2001-2004 showed that 88 percent of the fatal fires in single-family homes occurred where there were no working smoke alarms. The problem is not homes without fire sprinklers, but homes without working smoke alarms.

5. Not all fires benefit from the presence of a fire suppression system. Nearly half of all residential fires are confined fires that result in minimal smoke and fire damage and often self extinguish without any assistance from the fire department. Yet sprinklers activate at the presence of heat and cannot determine when a fire is confined or non-confined and will likely cause extensive water damage that could have been avoided.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There would be no fiscal impact if this proposal is approved because the current Indiana Residential Code does not have a mandatory sprinkler requirement.

Approve

Disapprove

Approve as amended

Further Study