



INDIANA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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To: 2018 Indiana Residential Code Committee

From: Indiana Fire Chiefs Association

Re: Section E3902.16 Arc-fault circuit interrupter protection.

The Indiana Fire Chiefs Association adopts the position of supporting the installation of AFCI's in new home structures. The IFCA along with the FIAI consider AFCI's a fire and life safety device, the same as smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and emergency escape ladders. Listed below are several reasons for supporting our position.

1. For the last 4 years Indiana has experienced 70 or greater fire fatalities per year and are well on our way to do the same this year. Approximately 87% of these fatalities occur in a residential home. Indiana has the highest fire death rate per capita out of the 12 states in the Midwest.
2. AFCI circuit breakers were created as a direct response to a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission report conducted by Underwriters Laboratories that identified an electrical problem in residential wiring systems causing numerous residential fires. In 1999, AFCI protection became a requirement in the National Electrical Code.
3. The average cost for an AFCI circuit breaker at a home improvement store is \$38.00, or about \$300.00 to protect a new 2,100 sqft., 3- or 4-bedroom home from electrical fires caused by electrical arcing. That equates to 83 cents per month to protect a family from electrical fires over a 30-year mortgage. AFCI circuit breakers, when installed correctly have the same life expectancy as a standard circuit breaker.
4. AFCI circuit breakers work extremely well with appliances and devices that meet U.S. Product safety standards and also complement GFCI's (ground-fault circuit-interrupters) and function well together to provide electrical safety and fire protection throughout a home.

The Indiana Fire Chiefs Association would like to thank all of you who currently sit on this committee and appreciate the time spent reviewing the 2018 International Residential Code and would appreciate your consideration and support of our position.

Respectfully

Tim Smith

Tim Smith
Fire Chief / President
IFCA