



September 11, 2008

International Code Council
500 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Sixth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

To Members of the International Code Council:

On behalf of Safe Kids USA, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, I want to urge your support for IRC Proposal RB64-07/08, a suggested change to the International Residential Code (IRC) to require fire sprinklers in new single family homes.

As the first national nonprofit organization dedicated solely to the number one killer of children – unintentional injury – Safe Kids strongly supports the use of fire sprinklers as a proven intervention to keep kids safe from fires. According to the Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics, each year approximately 480 children ages 14 and under die in residential fires. Despite a dramatic 65 percent decline in the child fire and burn death rate from 1987 – 2004, fires and burns are the third leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1-14 years. The increased use of fire sprinklers through an addition to the IRC would likely result in saving children's lives. In fact, according to the National Fire Protection Association, the combined use of smoke alarms, which detect fires, and sprinkler systems, which suppress them, could reduce fire-related deaths by 82 percent and injuries by 46 percent. The United States Fire Administration agrees; they recommend that all residences should be equipped with smoke alarms and automatic fire sprinklers.

If Safe Kids can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 662-4463 or Tanya Chin Ross, Senior Public Policy Associate, at (202) 662-0606. Thank you for your consideration of this important safety proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan Korn', written over a horizontal line.

Alan Korn
Director of Public Policy & General Counsel

Safe Kids Worldwide is a global network of organizations whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury, a leading killer of children 14 and under. More than 450 coalitions in 16 countries bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families.