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Sprinklers save lives

The New Jersey Assembly has the opportunity to make a very significant step in the direction of protecting our residents from the dangers of fire. It is voting Monday on bill A3278, which requires fire sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family homes.

Fire sprinklers are a cost-efficient way to save lives and reduce property damage. To date, there has never been a multiple loss of life due to fire in a structure with a fully-installed and well-maintained sprinkler system. If passed, this bill will bring immeasurable benefits to the residents of New Jersey by potentially saving countless lives, maybe even your own.

This bill is needed to bring New Jersey's building codes up to the minimum national standards, as outlined in the 2009 International Residential Code. To date, New Jersey has failed to adopt the sprinkler requirement section of the code, but has adopted the use of very flammable "lightweight" construction materials, which leaves firefighters and residents only three minutes to escape during a fire. This places tremendous pressure on our local firefighters and first responders enhancing their risk of injury during rescues.

I ask for your support of A3278 and urge you to send a message of support to your local Assembly members to stop tragic loss of life from fire and urge them to vote yes on the bill Monday.

DAVID KURASZ

Executive director,

New Jersey Fire

Sprinkler Advisory Board

North Brunswick

