

The Star-Ledger

Date: July 21, 2010 **Subject:** IRC Code Adoption **Circulation:** 236,017

READER FORUM

Safety measure stalled

Since June 21, nine New Jersey residents have died in five separate residential fires across the state, including four in an early morning blaze in Paterson. New Jersey has a unique opportunity to address its growing fire problem, but the state is inexplicably delaying the implementation of a national code that is designed to prevent fire tragedies.

The 2009 International Residential Code, the country's primary building code, includes a requirement, amended by the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code Advisory Board, making it mandatory for all newly constructed one- and two-family homes and townhomes built after Jan. 1, 2012, to contain a fire sprinkler system. However, this safety requirement is currently stalled in the governor's office.

The 2009 IRC Code, including the residential fire sprinkler requirement, has already been vetted by numerous code professionals and governmental agencies, and received approval from the CAB, Department of Community Affairs and Gov. Chris Christie's own Red Tape Review Commission. Even the public has voiced its overwhelming support for this regulation during a recent public comment period, sending 1,675 letters in support of the adoption of the IRC code and only four letters against.

Please call your local legislators and urge them to find out why the state is taking so long to adopt the residential fire sprinkler requirement.

*David Kurasz, executive director,
N.J. Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board*

