

DHCD, DBFR 2009 Code Change Process

December 7, 2009 Meeting Summary

Workgroup 3 - USBC/International Residential Code - IRC

1. Discussed the 2012 IRC code hearing related to sprinklers. Mandate for sprinklers sustained by the IRC Code Committee.
2. Discussed current code changes submitted by the Sprinkler Coalition. Robby Dawson indicated there might be changes based on a presentation from ISO where local fire department and community ratings might be impacted by not adopting the 2009 model I-Codes without amendments, including IRC sprinkler requirements. He also stated that consensus was based on the code change proposals being accepted as a complete package only. Mike Toalson introduced a code change to require fire extinguisher for kitchens. Some possible amendments were suggested on listings and type of fire extinguisher being ABC type. Mike also mentioned conversations with insurance representatives. For the next meeting (April 22nd) we will invite insurance reps. Mike provided two names and Robby can also provide the name of the ISO person to Janice Firestone.
3. Discussed request from the Virginia Housing Commission for fire data on 1&2 family homes for: age of homes and presence of smoke detectors where deaths occurred. DHCD has received a 30% response to the request sent to Building Officials and aims to have a 70% response. The VHC now wants fire data on response time, room of origin and cause of the fires. Robby asked for data on number of homes built in each time period. Staff hopes to have data collected and a summary of the findings by the end of January.
4. Reviewed the rest of the regulatory cycle.
5. Discussed staff idea how both parties might want to look at “Virginia specific” approach and using their code changes to project performance measurements and goals for what fire data might look like 10, 20 or 30 years from now.

Next and final meeting will be at DHCD April 22nd, 2010 at 9:30 a.m..