

Suggestions for A: FIREFIGHTER'S PRE-FIRE EVALUATION SURVEY

When possible local Fire Departments *could* set up fire safety workshops for residents within their fire district. During the fire safety workshop FIREFIGHTERS *could* provide fire safety information such as;

- Installation and use of smoke alarms, annual battery checks, and smoke alarm change out after smoke alarms reach 5-8 years old as manufacturers recommend replacement after 5 years, the homeowner's **FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE**>
- Installation and use of ABC residential fire extinguishers, as properly placed and operable **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**, are the homeowner's **SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE**.
- With children present; **TEST A FIRE EXTINGUISHER** so they know how to use it and what to expect.
- Develop a **FAMILY FIRE EXCAPE PLAN**, and practice the escape plan making sure all family members have at least **TWO WAYS OUT**. Then **PRACTICE THE PLAN WITH ALL FAMILY MEMBERS** to assure everyone know what do and has practiced exiting through standard halls and doorways as well as **ALL BEDROOM WINDOWS**.

DISTRICT PRE-FIRE BUILDING STRUCTURE FIRE SURVEYS

- FIREFIGHTERS *could* survey all homes and buildings within their district to determine the type of construction:
- This survey *could* be done while improving the knowledge of homes, homeowners, construction types, fire safety, and fire response safety for **FIREMEN**.

Floor Systems:

- a. Timber framed floor system using heavy timbers
- b. Standard wood frame, solid floor joist, (or)
- c. Light weight TJI (Wood I-beam floor frame) system (or)
- d. Light weight long span wood floor truss systems sheet metal gusset plates
- e. Concrete suspended floor system
- f. Concrete floor slab-on-grade

Roof Systems:

- a. Timber framed roof system using heavy timbers
- b. Standard wood frame, solid wood rafter system
- c. Light TJI (Wood I-beam roof rafter system)
- d. Lightweight long span wood roof truss system W/ metal gussets plates
- e. Metal rafter systems

FIRECHIEFS *could* rank each type of frame system for their fire crews training all **FIREMEN** on the collapse characteristics for each of the various types of framing.

Suggestions for a: FIREFIGHTER'S PRE-ENTRY STRUCTURAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

- * When a fire is reported, the dispatcher *could* be crosschecking with the FIRE DISTRICT'S "PRE-FIRE STRUCTURAL EVALUATION DATABASE AND Then NOTIFY ALL RESPONDING FIRE FIGHTERS THE STRUCTURAL TYPE OF FRAMING CONSTRUCTION they will encounter when on site:
 - A) - Light weight building materials; (TJI's, Floor Trusses, Roof Trusses, etc.)
 - A) - Light weight building materials; (Light gauge steel joist, studs, & Trusses)
 - B) - Wood Frame materials (2" x 10" floor joists, stick build solid wood rafters)
 - C) - Heavy wood frame (6" or larger post & beam wood joists, rafters, decking)

- * First FIREFIGHTER'S on site *could*; VERIFY TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION by:
 - Check via basement windows if light weight framing materials used for floors.
 - Check when venting roof if the roof system is long span wood truss or solid wood
 - Follow FIRE CHIEF's structural Safety directives when entering the home.
 - When a basement fire evident, proceed into home with EXTREME CAUTION
 - When above ceiling fire is evident, DETERMINE IF GABLE OR ROOF VENT would identify the type of roof framing.

- * When ENTERING light weight, long span engineered building products are identified:

Other precautions FIREFIGHTERS *COULD* TAKE ARE:

- Use infrared camera if available to determine floor structure temperatures
- Test floor systems collapse potential if possible with heavy objects
- Listen for tell tale sounds of eminent collapse
- Enter using a buddy system harness (ONLY ONE MAN ENTER)
- Look for alternative entry points

Again these *suggestions* are merely potential actions that could be taken on site to determine the type of framing system and the potential for early collapse. All of these suggestions should be further developed with an experienced fire fighting team and individual FIRE DISTRICTS may want to develop their own protocols for entry based on PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTER SAFETY TRAINING information and materials.