



# Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association

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September 4, 2018

The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) has a long-established partnership with the State Fire Marshal's Office as well as the NFPA, the ICC, and other affiliated agencies in supporting building, fire, and life safety codes that protect property as well as the lives of civilians and firefighters alike. The effectiveness of these efforts have been proven statistically effective in Tennessee over the past decade or more.

Like other southern states, Tennessee has historically had a high fire mortality rate. In fact, 9 of the top 10 highest fire mortality states are located in the U.S. Census Southern Regions. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reported Tennessee's 2006-2010 fire mortality rate to be 19.3 deaths per million, which means for every 1 million people in Tennessee, 19.3 deaths occur annually. The 19.3 deaths per million rate gave Tennessee the nation's 8th highest fire mortality rate in 2010.

However, an updated report released by NFPA in 2017 shows that Tennessee's fire mortality rate dropped from 19.3 deaths per million (2006-2010) to 14.6 deaths per million (2011-2015), a 24% reduction. This is the single largest reduction in fire mortality rate in Tennessee's recorded history. In addition, Tennessee's ranking among the nation's fire mortality rates has dropped from 8th to 11th.

We firmly believe that these improved statistics reflect an aggressive approach to broad-based community risk reduction practices supported by the TFCA and our partners. We continue to bring the best minds together from the fire service, industry, and strategic partnership organizations to assist us in educating, legislating, and advocating for codes and systems that protect lives and property from fire.

With this in mind, the TFCA is taking a position of support for two recent IFC proposals related to mulch and smoking regulation. These newly proposed regulations, identified as Section IFC F8-18 and IFC F13-18 respectively, have been researched and recommended by the Suburban Exterior Fire Work Group organized under the Vinyl Siding Institute. The goal is to expand the proximity between exterior combustible materials and potential ignition sources from unprotected exterior wall surfaces and soffits of Group R buildings of Type V construction. We believe, and the research has shown, that numerous fires can be prevented annually by the implementation of these two proposals.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or any member of the TFCA Board of Directors.

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