

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES REQUIRING RESIDENTIAL CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION DEVICES TO MEET THE APPLICABLE ANSI/UL STANDARD AS A MANDATORY CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY REGULATION

*Offered by:
National Association of State Fire Marshals*

Whereas carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas produced by burning carbon-based fuels; and

Whereas exposure to unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, a serious health condition that could result in death; and

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) unintentional non-fire related carbon monoxide poisoning from motor vehicles and fuel-burning appliances, such as furnaces, water heaters, portable generators, and stoves, in residential homes and other dwelling units kills more than 300 people and sends more than 20,000 to hospital emergency rooms for treatment each year; and

Whereas research shows that purchasing and installing carbon monoxide detection devices close to the sleeping areas in residential homes and other dwelling units can help avoid fatalities; and

Whereas Congress and State Legislatures should promote the purchase and installation of carbon monoxide detection devices in residential homes and dwelling units nationwide in order to promote the health and public safety of citizens throughout the Nation; and

Whereas codifying voluntary national consensus standards for carbon monoxide detection devices will ensure that these life-saving devices conform to critical performance requirements and that conformance is consistent from product to product to help ensure that they work as expected: and

Whereas requiring voluntary national consensus safety standards for carbon monoxide detection devices will block non-compliant products and enable the Federal government to require certification of compliance from manufacturers.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that, the Congressional Fire Services Institute support initiatives to require residential carbon monoxide detection devices to meet the applicable ANSI/UL standards by treating those standards as national mandatory consumer product safety rules, and to encourage States to require the installation of such detection devices in homes, and other residential occupancies, in accordance with NFPA 720 and the provisions contained in the International Residential Code as part of an overall effort to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.