Supporting the Use of Engineering to Improve Residential Fire Safety

May 31, 2012

Fires in dwellings account for the majority of life loss due to fire. Data suggest that approximately 80% of all fire fatalities worldwide are the result of fires that originate in a residential occupancy. Dwelling fires represent approximately 30% of all fires. [1] Research by NIST[2], NRCC [3,4] and UL[5] has demonstrated, that at least in North America, changes in materials used for furnishings, building materials and components, and construction methods have resulted in the potential for an increased level of hazard from an accidental dwelling fire.

In order to reduce the loss of life from residential fires the Society of Fire Protection Engineers supports the use of engineered components, systems and technologies such as smoke alarms, fire sprinklers, improved safety controls on cooking and heating appliances, and improved fire safe material technologies to reduce the fire hazard within residential structures and thereby reduce the loss of life from residential fires.

References:


