

HCR

20



**CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20(STA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE SEATON

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Encouraging the installation of fire sprinkler systems in residences.

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** statistics show that the state suffers many fatalities along with millions of  
4 dollars of property loss because of residential structure fires, with the statistics climbing each  
5 year; and

6 **WHEREAS** national studies by the United States Fire Administration indicate that the  
7 installation of residential fire sprinkler systems could have saved thousands of lives,  
8 prevented injuries, and eliminated hundreds of millions of dollars in property losses; and

9 **WHEREAS** establishing a program to encourage installation of residential fire  
10 sprinkler systems is likely to reduce the incidence of fire and should be reflected in insurance  
11 rates for residences where fire sprinkler systems are installed; and

12 **WHEREAS** the state fire marshal plans to establish a model program to recognize  
13 that installing residential fire sprinkler systems reduces fire hazard and to rate residences  
14 based on sprinkler system coverage using platinum, gold, and silver stars to recognize various  
15 levels of sprinkler coverage; and

16 **WHEREAS** installing fire sprinkler systems covering identified residential ignition,

1 sources will reduce the incidence of residential fires in rural and suburban areas of the state;  
2 and

3 **WHEREAS** a plumber can install sprinkler systems covering identified ignition  
4 sources and can verify the existence of residential fire sprinkler systems to the state fire  
5 marshal; and

6 **WHEREAS** the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems will help reduce the  
7 burden on local fire departments and local fire service areas; and

8 **WHEREAS** the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems will provide added  
9 protection for the state's most vulnerable residents: children, senior citizens, and persons with  
10 disabilities;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state fire  
12 marshal to formalize the model residential fire sprinkler system program as a statewide  
13 program; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the insurance  
15 industry to recognize the benefits of increased fire protection by lowering insurance rates  
16 based on the statewide residential safety star program implemented by the state fire marshal;  
17 and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the division of  
19 insurance to recognize incentives for homeowners that encourage installation of residential  
20 fire sprinkler systems to help reduce the incidence of residential fires in the state; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the  
22 Department of Labor and Workforce Development, working with the state fire marshal and  
23 other groups, to train and certify plumbers and others to install or certify residential fire  
24 sprinkler systems.

# Alaska State Legislature

**Chairman**  
State Affairs Committee

**Vice-Chairman**  
Economic Development, Trade & Tourism  
Committee

**Member**  
Judiciary Committee  
Joint Armed Services Committee

**Finance Subcommittees**  
Corrections  
Labor and Workforce Development  
Military and Veterans' Affairs  
Public Safety



*A Communication From*  
**REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN**  
**District 31 Anchorage**

**E-Mail: Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us**  
**"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog" RepBobLynnBlog.com**

**Session:**  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., #650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Phone (907) 269-0205  
Fax (907) 269-0207

## FAX

To: Legal Services *Dennis*

Fax #: 2029

From: Nancy Manly x2794  
Alaska State Capitol, room 104  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

# of Pages (including cover): 1

Phone: 907-465-4931  
Fax: 907-465-4316

*Revised  
3/10/08 3:12 pm*

Re: HCR 20 Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems  

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3-6-08

HCR 20 passed out of the House State Affairs Committee this morning as amended. Please draft a final CS for HCR 20 with the following Conceptual Amendment.

Conceptual Amendment #1 (Gruenberg)  
Language to read on Page 2, Lines 21 through 24:

"FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, working with the state fire marshal and other groups, to train and certify ~~licensed~~ plumbers and others to install residential fire sprinkler systems."

*delete*

*insert  
or certify*

*Dennis -  
This is how it should read.  
You can send it over in final CS*

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X
X
X           TRANSACTION REPORT
X
X                                     MAR-06-2008 03:13 AM
X   FOR: REP LYNN                      4654316
X
X-----X
X   SEND
X
X   DATE   START   RECEIVER          PAGES   TIME   NOTE
X-----X
X   MAR-06 03:12 AM 2029              1      30"  OK
X-----X
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*2nd OK*



# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: HCR 20  
(H) Publish Date: 2/29/08

Identifier (file name) \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected \_\_\_\_\_  
Title Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems RDU \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Component \_\_\_\_\_  
Requester Rep. Paul Seaton Component Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Eleanor Wolfe, Staff, L&C Committee  
Division: Legislature  
Approved by: Rep. Kurt Olson, Chairman

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time: 2/26/08 12:00 AM  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Concept paper provided to Rep. Paul Seaton on 1/11/06 by DPS  
--for more info, contact Gary Powell, SFM at 269-5491

### Residential Fire Sprinkler Incentive Program

It is the policy of the Alaska State Fire Marshal to recognize levels of fixed fire protection installed in single family dwellings in the state. This recognition program shall be called the Residential Safety Star Program. To attain the appropriate level of recognition, the fixed protection system shall be installed by qualified installers, permitted by the SFMO under 13 AAC 50.035, or otherwise approved by the manufacturer with concurrence of the SFMO.

The levels of protection recognized under this program shall be as outlined below:

- **Platinum Star** – Complete automatic fire sprinkler system as per NFPA 13R.
- **Gold Star** – Complete automatic fire sprinkler system as per NFPA 13D.
- **Silver Star** – Partial automatic fire sprinkler system as per NFPA 13 R to cover major sources of fire hazard including attached garages, laundry rooms, furnace rooms and kitchens. (Per USFA initiative Residential Fire Sprinkler Initiative)
- **Bronze Star** – Partial automatic fire sprinkler system as per NFPA 13 D to cover major sources of fire hazard including attached garages, laundry rooms, furnace rooms and kitchens. (Per USFA Residential Fire Sprinkler Initiative)

Fine water mist systems installed in compliance with NFPA 750 may be considered an equal to the respective categories above, on a case by case basis.

Jurisdictions receiving a deferral under 13 AAC 50.075 may choose to participate in this program.

Upon installation of a system outlined above, the authorized and permitted installer shall notify the SFMO, who shall then issue the homeowner the appropriate certificate.

Whereas the installation of an automatic sprinkler system will reduce the fire loss in those dwellings, the insurance industry is strongly encouraged to use this rating system as a mechanism to offer insurance premium reductions to individual homeowners.

Whereas the installation of an automatic sprinkler system will reduce the burden on local fire departments, local fire service areas are encouraged to provide the homeowner a reduction in fire service assessments accordingly.

# Alaska State Legislature

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Toll Free (800) 665-2689  
Representative\_Paul\_Seaton@legis.state.ak.us



345 W. Sterling Highway  
Suite 102B  
Homer, AK 99603  
Phone: 235-2921  
Fax: 235-4008

## REPRESENTATIVE Paul Seaton

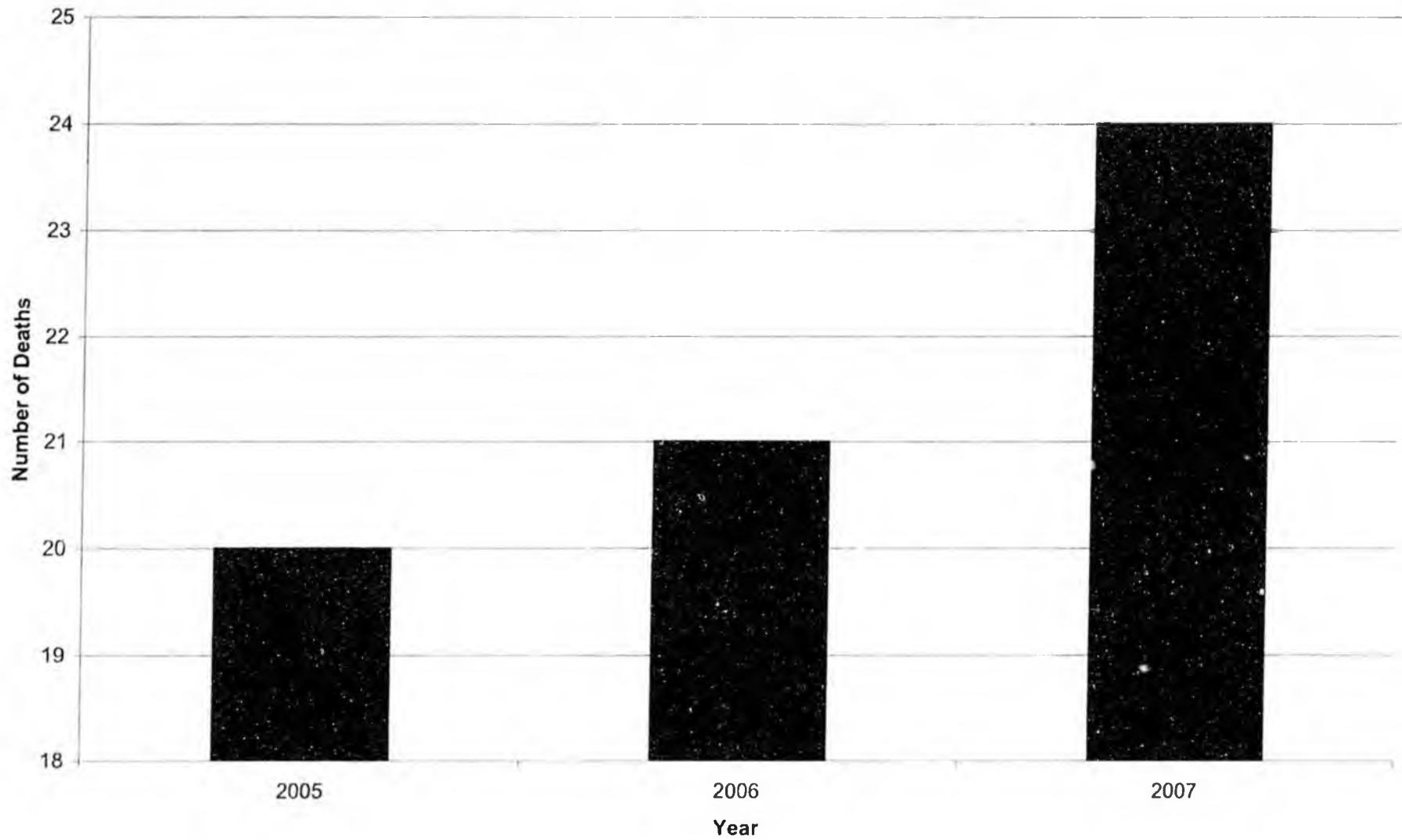
District 35

### HCR20

A Resolution encouraging the installation of fire sprinkler systems in residences.

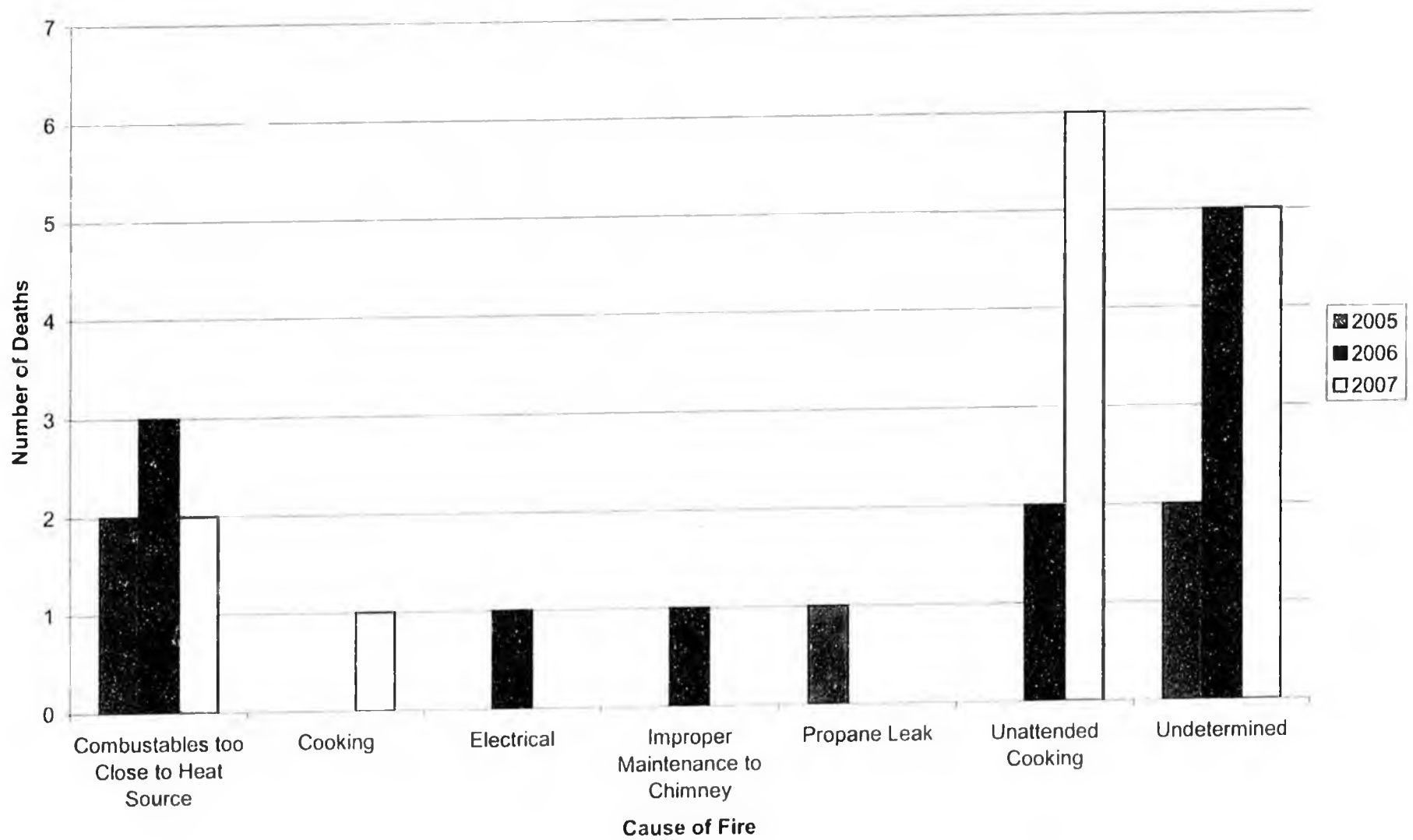
Residential fire sprinkler systems are known to save lives and prevent millions of dollars in property loss. HCR 20 encourages the State agencies and the Insurance industry to provide graduated incentives for partial and full residential sprinkler coverage. It asks that the Fire Marshall come up with a program that would rate residences based on sprinkler coverage within the home. This program would allow home owners to install partial system over known hot spots such as cooking areas and furnace areas and still get some credit. It also asks that The Department of Labor and Workforce Development come up with a program to qualify plumbers to install these systems and asks the insurance industry to recognize this program and provide insurance discounts based on the Fire Marshall's program.

## Fire Deaths Year Comparison



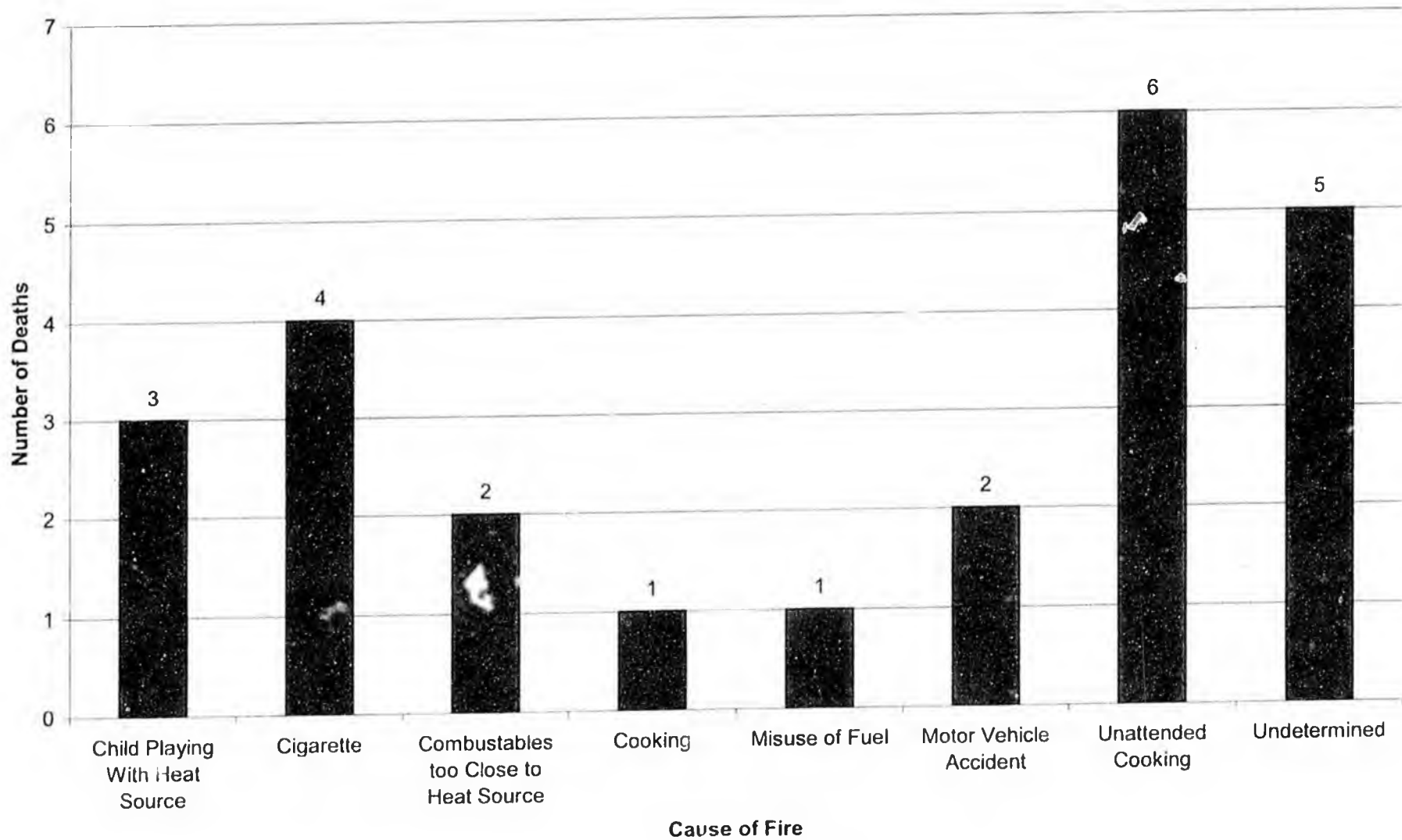
Prepared by the office of Rep. Seaton

## Applicable Fire Cause Comparison (2005-07)



Prepared by the Office of Paul Sexton

## 2007 Cause of Fire



Prepared by the office of Paul Sexton



# Anchorage Firefighters Local 1264



P.O. Box 242041 • Anchorage, AK 99524-2041  
(907) 349-1264 • (907) 349-5580 (fax)

February 12, 2008

Representative Paul Seaton  
State Capitol Room 102  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Ref: HCR20-Residential Fire Sprinkler systems

Dear Representative Seaton:

The International Association Fire Fighters Local 1264 is in support of HCR20 which encourages State agencies and the Insurance Industry to provide graduated incentives for partial and full residential Sprinkler coverage.

The IAFF looks forward to the day when all new residential construction has sprinkler system. This is a step toward that direction and a step towards saving lives of Alaskan civilians and first responders.

Sincerely,

Tom Wescott  
President, IAFF Local 1264



**ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS**  
*International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO, CLC*

February 12, 2008

Representative Paul Seaton  
State Capitol Room 102  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Ref: HCR20-Residential Fire Sprinkler systems

Dear Representative Seaton:

The Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association is in support of HCR20 which encourages State agencies and the Insurance Industry to provide graduated incentives for partial and full residential Sprinkler coverage.

The APFFA look forward to the day when all new residential construction has sprinkler systems. This is a step toward that direction and a step towards saving lives of Alaskan civilians and first responders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Briggs", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Briggs  
Legislative Director  
Alaska Profession Fire Fighters Association

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

Chesley

**RESOLUTION 08-24**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER,  
ALASKA, SUPPORTING HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION (HCR) 20 FOR RESIDENTIAL FIRE  
SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, Residential fire sprinkler systems are known to save lives and prevent millions of dollars in property loss; and

WHEREAS, Residential fire sprinkler systems are known to reduce the risk of injury to firemen and other emergency service responders; and

WHEREAS, Representative Paul Seaton introduced House Concurrent Resolution 20 to:

- 1) encourage appropriate State agencies and the Insurance industry to provide graduated incentives for partial and full residential sprinkler coverage,
- 2) requests that the Fire Marshall come up with a program that would rate residences based on sprinkler coverage within the home,
- 3) requests that The Department of Labor and Workforce Development come up with a program to qualify plumbers to install these systems, and
- 4) requests the insurance industry to recognize this program and provide insurance discounts based on the Fire Marshall's program.

WHEREAS, The residents of the City of Homer may benefit from the actions that will result from the Legislature's adoption of HCR 20.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, supports the Legislature's adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 20 for residential fire sprinkler systems.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008.

CITY OF HOMER

JAMES C. HORNADAY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A

HCR 20

"Encouraging the installation of fire sprinkler systems in residences."

According to the United States Fire Administration, in 2005 alone, the United States suffered 396,000 residential fires incurring 3,055 deaths, 13,825 injuries and 6.9 billion dollars in property loss. Of course, these are just the hard statistics. The more human side of these numbers don't account for the emotional loss of loved ones, the pain and suffering of burns, the fishing trips that will never take place or the family heirlooms that will never be recovered. Even with an abyssal loss of life there is substantial resistance to requiring residential sprinklers in new construction today.

The Department of Public Safety Division of Fire and Life Safety find these statistics unacceptable. It is incumbent upon us to value those properties that embrace the responsibility of their own safety and reward them for exercising uncommon sense and far sightedness.

Within the body of HCR 20, this proposed resolution is the policy of the Alaska State Fire Marshal (SFMO) to recognize levels of fixed fire protection installed in single family dwellings in the state. This recognition program shall be called the Residential Safety Star Program. To attain the appropriate level of recognition, the fixed protection system shall be installed by qualified installers, permitted by the SFMO under 13 AAC 50.035, or otherwise approved by the manufacturer with concurrence of the SFMO.

We need a change in culture. For too long our society has rewarded victim status to people who have fires occur in their homes. We risk firefighter and family member's lives to true accidents and normal acts of carelessness. We reward these incidents with an outpouring of compassion, positive affirmation and financial assistance. Shouldn't we reward positive proactive outcome rather than rewarding negative results? HCR 20 brings forth a voluntary positive individual approach to fire safety within our homes and provides the means to reward families who invest to protect the sanctity of their home by installing a residential fire sprinkler suppression system. Please support HCR 20

*This  
is fire  
marshal's  
recommendation*

# REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON

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## ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE House District 35

### Memorandum

To: House State Affairs Chairman, Bob Lynn  
From: Representative Paul Seaton  
Date: February 28, 2008  
Re: HCR 20 hearing request

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I respectfully request a hearing for HCR 20 RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS at your earliest possible convenience. HCR 20 seeks to save Alaskan lives and property by requesting the insurance industry to provide incentives for homeowners who install residential fire sprinklers. HCR 20 requests that the State Fire Marshal formalize a program for recognition of varying degrees of sprinkler coverage, and that the Department of Labor and Workforce Development establish curriculum to license plumbers for installing and inspecting sprinkler systems.