



# MEETING CITIZEN EXPECTATIONS FOR SAFETY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

## **New Hampshire's building and fire safety codes are nearly 10 years out of date, but the only action the legislature has taken so far is to issue a report!**

- ▶ The November 2018 report acknowledges that the state is behind, and that “[a]s a result, new technologies and techniques are not approved for use in the state of New Hampshire.”
- ▶ But, rather than suggest a remedy, the report claims “[v]etting new codes is a long and exhaustive process” for the legislature, which should excuse the state to remain perpetually behind.

## **People in New Hampshire expect their leaders to make safety a priority, according to the results from a recent Granite State Poll<sup>1</sup>:**

- ▶ 81 percent think that their state and local governments should be held accountable for ensuring that electrical and fire safety codes are up to date.
- ▶ 88 percent trust that their state and local governments will update electrical and fire safety codes by using the latest knowledge and safety advancements.
- ▶ 86 percent expect policymakers to make keeping electrical and fire safety codes up to date a high priority.

## **In fact, most people assume their legislators are already doing this:**

- ▶ 80 percent assume their home met the most up-to-date fire and electrical safety codes when it was built.
- ▶ 77 percent would be surprised to learn that homes built today are not required to follow the latest available electrical and fire safety recommendations.

## **Delay through review by the legislature overlooks the independent expertise that has already vetted new code provisions. The legislature should move quickly to update the state's codes in 2019.**

- ▶ Before it is reviewed at the state level, experts from around the country gather in an open process to vet new ideas and review proposals submitted by the public<sup>2</sup>.
- ▶ Once the updated edition is finalized, the state appointed New Hampshire Board of Fire Control reviews any changes to ensure new code provisions improve safety without imposing undue burdens on the people of the state.

<sup>1</sup> The Granite State Poll is conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. These questions were included in the Fall of 2018 poll and asked to 643 randomly selected New Hampshire adults by cellular or landline telephone calls.

<sup>2</sup> To learn more about the NFPA codes and standards development process, please visit: [nfpa.org/process](https://www.nfpa.org/process)



**SUPPORTING THE FIRE & LIFE SAFETY ECOSYSTEM TO KEEP CITIZENS & FIRST RESPONDERS SAFE**

The Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem identifies all of the components that work together to uphold safety for citizens. One of these components, Government Responsibility, covers the unique role of governmental authority in ensuring regulations reference the most current safety codes and standards and making sure the right resources are in place to enforce safety regulations. This responsibility is essential for the safety of citizens and the safety of first responders who risk their own safety to help others. Building, fire, and electrical codes all contain provisions specifically intended to protect first responders in the event of an emergency. Delaying updates to these codes puts citizens and first responders alike at risk.

