

FIRE PROTECTION STANDARDS

An effort is afoot in Congress to potentially back-door national standards that amount to a one-size-fits-all unfunded mandate for local governments. HR 5686, the Firefighter Fatality Reduction Act of 2008, has 24 cosponsors including Oklahoma Congressman Dan Boren. The bill is a 2008 legislative priority of the IAFF.

It directs the Department of Homeland Security to survey each career, volunteer, or combination fire department located in the U.S. to determine whether the department is in compliance with voluntary consensus standards. In addition, a task force is established for the purpose of "developing a plan to enhance firefighter safety by increasing compliance with national consensus standards for safe operations, staffing, training and fitness." NFPA standards are specifically mentioned by the IAFF in lobbying for this bill.

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