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## **Massive Boston-Area Apartment Fire Increases Scrutiny of Wood Construction**

*Fire is Boston's Second Wood Building Incident This Month, Fourth in MA Since June*

**Silver Spring, MD** – Early Sunday morning, [a massive eight-alarm fire tore through a wood-framed luxury apartment complex under construction](#) in Waltham, Massachusetts – the second wooden Boston-area construction project to go up in smoke in thirty days, and the fourth in Massachusetts since June.

Two firefighters were injured in the blaze, which, fed by high-winds, caused the collapse of five buildings in the apartment complex.

“[Wood framing] seems to be all the rage these days,” said Robert Logan, vice president of the Waltham City Council and former chair of the council’s ordinance and rules committee. “But they seem to burn pretty well.”

The fire comes at a time of increased visibility on the use of wood or wood-framing in apartment complexes, as a number have been the site of spectacular fires recently – most notably in [Charlotte, NC](#); [Warner Robins, GA](#); [Midvale, UT](#); [Oakland, CA](#); [Dorchester, MA](#); [Lawrence, MA](#); [East Hollywood, CA](#); [Lowell, MA](#); [Waterbury, CT](#); [Emeryville, CA](#); [St. Petersburg, FL](#); [Arlington, VA](#); [College Park, MD](#); [Overland Park, KS](#); [Raleigh, NC](#); and [Maplewood, NJ](#). There have been [dozens over the last few years](#).

“It’s clear that Boston has a problem with combustible construction materials,” said Kevin Lawlor, a spokesperson for Build with Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association comprised of fire service professionals, engineers, architects, and industry experts. “Boston-area lawmakers need to take note of the cause of these fires and work with all parties to protect their constituents from this onslaught.”

In addition to New York City and Chicago, cities and towns like Maitland, FL; Sandy Springs and Tucker, GA, have taken proactive steps to preemptively ban the use of combustible materials, such as wood, in this type of construction.

“If local officials are serious about safety then the conversation on the inherent vulnerabilities and weaknesses within the community must be addressed,” continued Lawlor. “If four fires since June doesn’t provoke action, then I can’t imagine what would.”

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