



A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

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Boston Area Faced with Two Residential Community Fires

Fire at condo complex leaves dozens of residents stranded

Silver Spring, MD – [Over the weekend](#), firefighters responded to two fires in the Boston area. One of which became a six-alarm fire at a wood-framed, multi-unit apartment building in West Roxbury. A large portion of one of the condo units was destroyed and 36 residents were forced to evacuate their homes. One resident and two firefighters were injured. The fire also caused \$2 million worth of estimated damage. On the same day, a second fire broke out which quickly became a four-alarm fire at a multi-family, wood-frame home. 19 people were displaced.

“There is a concerning and dangerous trend in the Boston area with regard to these kinds of fires,” said Kevin Lawlor, spokesperson for Build with Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association consisting of community organizations, fire safety professionals, engineers, architects and industry experts committed to strengthening the nation’s building codes and ensuring greater access to secure housing. “In the future, the construction of these multi-unit condo complexes needs to be done in a safe and smart manner. This includes the use of concrete and steel so that tragedies like this are prevented. The use of wood in residential properties such as the one in West Roxbury puts community members and residents at risk and local lawmakers need to move forward with improving current building codes.”

Over the last few years, there have been [dozens of fires](#) in wood-frame, multi-family residential structures – both occupied and under construction – fueled by the combustible materials in the buildings in question. The latest this year have been located in: [Centreville, VA](#); [and Greenbelt, MD](#); [Tucker, GA](#); [Concord, CA](#); [Willingboro, NJ](#); [Manteca, CA](#); [Denver, CO](#); and [Los Angeles, CA](#).

In order to address the vulnerabilities that exist in combustible structures, Build with Strength has stepped up efforts to mitigate the dangers of fire for communities across the country. In reviewing current building and fire safety codes, the coalition is working to identify areas in need of improvement, particularly in updating building codes by including the use of non-combustible materials to minimize the risk of fires.

Additional Resources:

- [WCVB ABC 5: Gas leak triggers large fire in West Roxbury apartment complex](#)

Learn more at www.buildwithstrength.com.

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