



A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

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Four-Alarm New Jersey Wood-Framed Apartment Fire Leaves Dozens Displaced

Three Firefighters Treated for Exhaustion as Fire Spread to Two Homes

Perth Amboy, NJ—A four-alarm [fire](#) engulfed two homes in Perth Amboy on Saturday, displacing 28 people and leaving three firefighters in need of treatment for exhaustion. All occupants were evacuated safely prior to fire department arrival, a likely benefit of the fire not taking place in the middle of the night. Perth Amboy firefighters were aided by departments in Keasbey, Melrose, Morgan, South Amboy, Iselin, New Market, East Brunswick, North Brunswick & Plainsboro, along with the Middlesex County Fire Marshal's Office. Edison and Monroe covered the city of Perth Amboy for the duration of the incident.

Ten county boards of freeholders, representing 67% of the state population in New Jersey, [support](#) stronger building codes and noncombustible mid- to high-rise construction. Such a measure, SB 1261, is also supported by state officials, labor groups and fire safety experts across the state, including the Senate President, Deputy Speaker, NJ FMBA, PFANJ, IAFF/AFL-CIO and NJFPPA.

"I look forward to passing this bill to ensure that when our brave men and women run into that fire, they're safe and that we have done everything we possibly can to protect them so that they can go home to their families," [said](#) Senate President Sweeney at a press conference in Atlantic City late last year. The Senate President, along with bill sponsors Senator Stack and Assemblyman DeAngelo have been vocal proponents of strengthening fire safety standards using non-combustible materials in New Jersey.

The fire in Perth Amboy serves as a stark reminder to some, who cite combustible framing as placing dozens – or in the case of the Edgewater fire several years ago, thousands – of lives at risk.

"This latest fire in Perth Amboy shows that when it comes to fire safety there is no room for compromise," says 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. "To negotiate or settle for less is to put hundreds, even thousands, of lives at risk. The citizens and first responders of New Jersey deserve safe, non-combustible buildings."

Build with Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA), has launched a campaign to educate citizens, local and state officials, and industry experts about the

inherent dangers of wood-framed construction, particularly in multi-story, residential and commercial buildings. As a grassroots organization, they work with local elected officials and industry workers, from architects to project managers to advocate for the safety benefits of working with concrete-based construction.

Learn more at www.buildwithstrength.com

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