



A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

On Friday, June 28, a massive fire broke out in Santa Clara, CA at a wood-framed housing construction site. The blaze destroyed more than 50 partially built condos and injured one worker according to officials. According to reports, the blaze was difficult to contain because the construction project was in the framing stage and nearly 25% complete. The wood framing allowed significant amounts of airflow, making it easier for the flame to spread.

Build with Strength Los Angeles, a coalition consisting of community organizations, organized labor, fire safety professionals, engineers, architects and industry experts committed to strengthening the nation's building codes and ensuring greater access to secure housing believes that this is yet another example of a preventable fire had the stronger building codes been in place. [American Wood Council](#) and the International Code Council have conceded that wood-framed buildings pose a greater fire threat during construction, though they believe the threat dissipates post-construction. As the Santa Clara fire illustrates, however, construction site fires put first responders and the surrounding community in harms way.

"At all stages of construction and occupation noncombustible materials are safer for workers, first responders and communities. Brushing aside a fire during construction turns a blind-eye to the danger faced by those in the fire service and construction industries. Even more, the County of Los Angeles, [stands to lose \\$22.6 billion](#) in wood-framed residential fire losses over the next fifteen years. Policymakers need to act swiftly to mitigate these threats to life, security, and tax payer dollars. Los Angeles City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, along with Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, recently introduced a motion to strengthen fire safety standards. Cities such as Santa Clara, and those across the state, should follow their leadership."