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Coast to Coast Wood-Frame Fires In Los Angeles and Boston Once Again Put Focus on Use of Inferior Combustible Building Products

Infernos Join Lengthy List of Wooden Fires in the Last Year

Silver Spring, MD – Over the weekend and earlier this morning, firefighters rushed to put out wood-frame fires in [Lawrence, Massachusetts](#) and [East Hollywood, California](#), respectively.

The 7-alarm fire in Lawrence spread quickly, damaging seven buildings and destroying three of them, as the neighborhood was packed “very tight” with multifamily wood-frame houses, according to Lawrence Fire Chief Brian Moriarty. The fire was on the heels of nearby fire in Lowell, MA under similar circumstances.

While in East Hollywood, the fire at a three-story, wood-frame apartment building under construction caused windows at a neighboring building to shatter and spread to the roof of another. 20 people – 10 adults and 10 children – were displaced by the fire.

The infernos in Massachusetts and California come at a time of increasing concerns with vulnerable construction methods – particularly the use of wood-framing in the low-to mid-rise residential market – as major fires have dominated headlines in recent weeks and months.

This year, there have been a number of spectacular wood-framed apartment fires – most notably in [Lowell, MA](#); [Waterbury, CT](#); [Oakland, 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](#).

“These fires are literally now happening coast to coast and no community is safe from what is an entirely preventable threat to public safety,” said Kevin Lawlor, a spokesperson for Build With Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association comprised of fire safety professionals, engineers, architects, and industry experts. “What we need now more than ever are lawmakers who are willing to protect

their constituents by demanding the use of non-combustible building materials in this type of construction. There is an opportunity to prevent these fires in other communities and rebuild with strength in the communities already affected, we must take advantage of that.”

Cities and towns like New York City, NY; Chicago, IL; 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.

Resource: [America is Burning](#)

Learn more at www.buildwithstrength.com.

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