



A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

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Build with Strength Urges Solution to Systematic Danger After Another Preventable Wood-Framed Blaze

Build with Strength calls on developers and lawmakers to pursue commonsense fire safety measures

Alexandria, VA — On Saturday morning, a [massive, four alarm fire](#) broke out at a Virginia construction site for a five-story wood-framed condominium building. Firefighters are working on the scene to try and contain the blaze, which spread beyond the construction site, forced evacuations from neighboring townhomes, and shut down traffic on the busy Richmond Highway. Fortunately, no injuries have been reported.

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, highlights the need for legislation to address this devastating problem. The coalition is proud to stand with lawmakers and communities across the country in Los Angeles, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Massachusetts, and beyond who are currently seeking code changes to encourage the use of non-combustible construction practices.

“If developers can’t see their way clear to build safer buildings, and our elected representatives insist on kowtowing to special interests, perhaps the architects and specifiers responsible for selecting these materials will recognize their responsibility to deliver something better for their clients and our communities,” said Gregg Lewis, architect and spokesperson for Build with Strength. “All residents and communities deserve a safe place to call home and it is time to put in place commonsense safety measures to ensure an end to these unnecessary tragedies.”

The Alexandria, VA fire represents a growing trend of preventable wood-framed, multi-story fires across the country. These fires are particularly common when the buildings are under construction due to an increased exposure of the wood to exterior elements. From the massive [Arlington, VA complex fire](#), to [Weymouth, MA](#), the [Avalon at Edgewater](#) and [Highland Park](#) fires in New Jersey, to the [Da Vinci fire in Los Angeles](#), if it’s combustibile construction, you are never safe from this type of destruction.

Build with Strength works with communities, lawmakers, and industry employees to advocate for safer, sustainable building materials. Strengthening local and national building codes is among the organization’s top priorities.

Learn more at www.buildwithstrength.com

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