



## HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 5, 2009

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### **Houston Fire Department to Join Other State Fire Departments to Voice Opposition to Senate Bill 1410**

#### **Texas Fire Chiefs Association Encourage Governor Perry to Veto Bill**

**Who:** The Texas Fire Chiefs Association  
Austin Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr  
Dallas Fire Chief Eddie Burns  
Houston Assistant Fire Chief Karen Dupont  
West University Place Fire Chief Steve Ralls

**What:** Press conference held to promote life-safety in home fires

**When:** Monday, June 8, 2009 at 1 p.m. CDT

**Where:** Corner of West 10th and Colorado Street, Directly across from the Governor's Mansion, Near the AT&T Building, Austin, TX

**Details:** On the one-year anniversary of the Texas Governor's Mansion fire, the Texas Fire Chiefs Association will hold a press conference to promote life- and property-saving benefits of residential fire sprinklers on June 8, 2009, at 1 p.m. CDT.

Senate Bill 1410 currently sits on the desk of Governor Rick Perry, waiting for his signature. This bill would prevent cities and other local jurisdictions from deciding for themselves whether or not residential sprinkler requirements, similar to those for apartment buildings, are the best method to protect the lives of firefighters and families. The passage of this bill could also make an impact upon home insurance rates.

One such jurisdiction, the City of West University Place, adopted a home fire

sprinkler ordinance in May of this year, but that ordinance will be invalidated by SB1410.

Sprinklers, when used in combination with smoke alarms, cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 82 percent, according to the United States Fire Administration. The Texas Fire Chiefs Association supports residential sprinkler requirements – not only do sprinklers assist in saving the lives of families in home fires, they are approximately 98 percent effective in containing a fire before the fire department arrives, significantly improving life-safety conditions for firefighters entering a burning home.

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