



# Fact Sheet on: The Advantages of the Life Safety Code

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## **Advantages of the OSFM adopting the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Life Safety Code**

- ✓ OSFM believes that the NFPA Life Safety Code (LSC) provides requirements that result in an appropriate level of safety for Illinois.
- ✓ Unlike many other codes, the LSC applies to both new construction and existing occupancies.
- ✓ The LSC is adopted to protect the public. Although not being a building code or a fire prevention code, the LSC addresses construction, protection, and occupancy features necessary to minimize danger to life from fire, including smoke, fumes or panic.
- ✓ The LSC is a nationally recognized code developed by consensus technical committees of experts. NFPA consensus committees balance representation of various interests including manufacturers, installers, labor, applied research laboratories, enforcing authorities, insurers, consumers and special experts.
- ✓ The LSC is compatible with all nationally published building codes.
- ✓ Upon adoption of an updated edition of the LSC, the NFPA will provide free training and free LSC code books for enforcers that attend the training.
- ✓ All NFPA codes, including the LSC, are able to be accessed in a "read-only" form online free of charge.
- ✓ NFPA staff offers guidance and formal interpretations when code questions arise.
- ✓ The Life Safety code is updated every three years to keep pace with new technologies and to consider real-world event that require the code to be modified.
- ✓ The NFPA publishes the "Life Safety Code Handbook" to assist users with code interpretation and understanding.
- ✓ The NFPA publishes checklists of the LSC requirements to assist enforcers/inspectors with application of the code.