

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Joe Jameson – 608-212-9357
IAEI WI Chapter



**WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS
CALLS GOV. WALKER'S BUILDING SAFETY MONTH PROCLAMATION "EMBARRASSING" AS STATE AGENCY
RECOMMENDS STOPPING EXPANSION OF FIRE PREVENTION DEVICES IN NEW HOME BUILDING**

Proclamation issued as Governor considers state agency's proposal to "turn back the clock" on national electrical code standards, putting Wisconsin nearly a decade behind other states and making new homes less safe from electrical fires

MADISON – The International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) Wisconsin Chapter today called on Gov. Scott Walker to rescind a signed proclamation declaring May 2017 as "Building Safety Month" due to its embarrassing nature.

"The Governor's proclamation asks Wisconsin residents to acknowledge the inspection and enforcement of services derived from International Codes, when in fact, his state agency is proposing to completely ignore the national requirements for electrical fire safety device expansion in all new home building," said Scott Tatro, IAEI WI Chapter president. "While other states are expanding their electrical fire safety codes, Wisconsin's Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) wants to halt the expansion of arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and related outlet receptacles, which not only stop deadly electrical fires before they start, but prevent shocks and electrocution. This proclamation should be rescinded unless the Governor is going to truly stand by Wisconsin residents and allow for the expansion of these fire safety devices."

Fire chiefs, firefighters, fire inspectors and electrical inspectors from around the state have repeatedly appeared at public hearings statewide to warn DPS and the Governor of the dangers of preventing the expansion of fire and electrocution prevention devices in new home building, dormitories and elsewhere.

"We are hopeful the Governor is listening to the facts that are out there and will ignore the dangerous recommendation made by DPS not to expand electrical fire and electrocution prevention devices in Wisconsin," said Tatro. "It's embarrassing to say in a proclamation that you have 'confidence' in those 'who develop and implement the highest-quality codes to protect our citizens,'" yet the very agency you have overseeing state electrical codes is proposing actually scaling back on devices that will prevent electrical fires and electrocution in new homes and other buildings. We're hoping Gov. Walker makes the right decision to protect Wisconsin residents and expand the electrical safety code and not make it among the weakest in the country. If he stands by citizens and protects them from electrical fires and electrocution, then the proclamation is correct. If not, then it isn't worth the paper it is written on."

The public is also encouraged to voice its opposition to the DPS recommendations by contacting Gov. Walker at 608-266-1212, via email <https://walker.wi.gov/contact-us> or on Twitter [@GovWalker](https://twitter.com/GovWalker).

Among the organizations opposing the DPS recommendations are the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association, Wisconsin State Firefighters Association, Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors, Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association and the International Association of Electrical Inspectors – Wisconsin Chapter.

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has been a leader in the safety of our buildings, having in place, the “Safe Place Statutes” since 1913; and

WHEREAS, our state’s continuing efforts to address the critical issues of safety, energy efficiency, water conservation, water quality, and sustainability in buildings that affect our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster, give us confidence that our structures are safe and sound; and

WHEREAS, our confidence is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians – building safety officials, fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, laborers, and others in the construction industry – who work year-round to ensure the construction of safe buildings along with the dedicated members of the International Code Council who develop and implement the highest-quality codes to protect our citizens in the buildings where we live, learn, work, worship, play, and visit; and

WHEREAS, the International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety, energy, and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities, counties, and states; and

WHEREAS, “Code Officials – Partners in Community Safety and Economic Growth,” the theme for 2017, is sponsored by the International Code Council, which raises awareness of the importance of building safety to ensure that the places we frequent are safe and recognizes that countless lives have been saved due to the implementation of safety codes by local and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, during observance of Building Safety Month, Wisconsin residents are asked to acknowledge the essential inspection and enforcement services provided by city, village, town, county, and state officials;

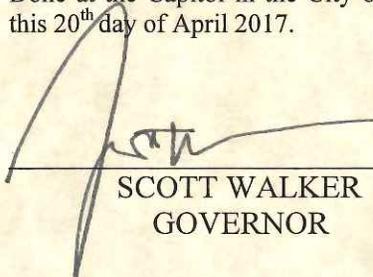
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Scott Walker, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim the month of May 2017 as

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

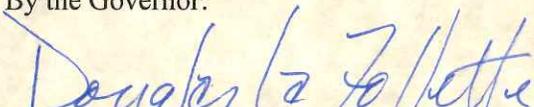
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our citizens.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 20th day of April 2017.


SCOTT WALKER
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State