



**SAFER
BUILDINGS
COALITION**

www.saferbuildings.org

"In-building communication when you need it most."

Did You Know?

- There are over 5.6 million commercial buildings in the U.S.
- First Responders need to be able to talk inside, communicate to each other inside, and communicate outside.
- Building Occupants need to be able to text and call 911 *using their mobile device* from inside those buildings and receive mass notifications wherever they may be inside the building.
- Response Time is Critical: The FCC estimates that an improvement of one minute for 9-1-1 response time would save 10,000 lives annually in the US.
- A Survey of the International Association of Fire Chiefs reports that in a large percentage of buildings, critical communication can't happen.



What we Do:

- **Training and Education on Public Safety Communications** - In-building Public Safety wireless communication is a critical challenge today. The Safer Buildings Coalition provides a rich and extensive program of in-person and on-line education for Code Officials, First Responders, Enterprise, and the Wireless Industry.
- **Advocacy** - The Safer Buildings Coalition is active at the Federal, State and Local level, working with agencies and organizations like the FCC, FirstNet, DHS, APCO, TIA, UL (Underwriters Laboratories) the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the NFPA and ICC, and others to advocate for public policy and Public Private Partnerships that contribute towards achieving the SBC mission of making buildings safer through technology.
- **Fire Code Development** - We are working with stakeholders to propose changes to model fire codes produced by the International Code Council (ICC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) related to Public Safety communication within buildings. Code development is a continuous process in both model codes/standards organizations (the ICC and NFPA).
- **Industry Advancement** - The Safer Buildings Coalition believes that a well-informed, highly competent and robust technical industry is required to provide quality goods and services that enable safer buildings. We are committed to standards, practices, policies and codes that are technically rational and commercially feasible that achieve the Safer Buildings Coalition Mission.

Our Member Base

The Safer Buildings Coalition is supported by a diverse group of Members representing First Responders, Fire and Building Code Officials, Commercial Real Estate, Higher Education, Healthcare, Manufacturers, System Integrators, Engineering and other related trades.

Key Members and Knowledge Partners: International Association of Fire Chiefs, Automatic Fire Alarm Association, Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA), FirstNet, Honeywell, Motorola, CBRE, Commscope, Siemens, University of Colorado, University of New Mexico, over 100 First Responder and Public Safety agencies and individuals, and many others.

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Current Key Policy Initiatives:



Tax Code

Section 179 of the IRS tax code allows businesses to deduct the full purchase price of qualifying equipment and/or software purchased or financed during the tax year. Qualifying property includes certain improvements to existing non-residential buildings: fire suppression, alarms and security systems, HVAC, and roofing. The Safer Buildings Coalition believes a drafting error in the bill left out in-building wireless infrastructure improvements and that **the code should be revised to:**

- Include in-building wireless infrastructure for public safety communications as **Qualifying Property - including cellular and Public Safety radio - BECAUSE** people must be able to dial 911 using their mobile device, the National Public Safety Broadband Network (FirstNet) uses cellular bands, and First Responders must have working communications.
- Extend the 100% bonus depreciation for future tax years.
- The proposed Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act [H.R.1481 and S.602 – 115th Congress (2017-2018)] is related but should be revised to include wireless infrastructure in addition to sprinklers.

School Safety

Recent tragedies have demonstrated a critical need to protect our children in schools. The general population has indicated bi-partisan support for making schools safer through “school hardening” and other technology improvements. **EXAMPLES:** Florida recently passed the **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act** [Florida Senate Bill 7026] that appropriated \$400 million, which includes \$98 million to implement a grant program for improving and hardening the physical security of school buildings. In Colorado, state Sen. Don Coram [(R) Montrose] has sponsored a bill [Colorado SB18-158] that would provide grants to schools that want to buy radio technology that allows them to communicate more directly with emergency responders. Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran [(D) Denver] is a co-sponsor of the bill.

- The Safer Buildings Coalition seeks support for federal legislation that would provide matching grants or other subsidies to states who implement programs to improve in-building wireless infrastructure for public safety communications - including cellular and Public Safety radio - **BECAUSE** people must be able to dial 911 using their mobile device, the National Public Safety Broadband Network (FirstNet) uses cellular bands, and First Responders must have working communications.

"The Safer Buildings Coalition is developing a roadmap and solutions to ensure in-building radio coverage is available during an emergency."

- Chief Jeff Johnson (Ret.), Past President (IAFC), Former Vice Chair Board of Directors (FirstNet)

Learn more about membership and submit an online membership application at: saferbuildings.org/apply

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