



**A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION**

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### **Massive Phoenix Fire Shows Danger of Wood Construction**

*Blaze from apartment complex under construction took up nearly an entire city block*

**Phoenix, AZ** — A [massive fire](#) broke out on Sunday at a four-story apartment complex under construction in downtown Phoenix. The massive blaze took up nearly an entire city block and required 200 firefighters to control according to a local fire captain that was at the scene. No one was injured, but the fire caused power outages for nearly 1,000 residents in the area. The project was only 40% complete and the finished wood framing was exposed at the time of the fire.

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 or local measures to address this devastating problem. The coalition is proud to stand with lawmakers and communities across the country who are currently seeking code changes to encourage the use of non-combustible construction practices.

Phoenix law currently allows for the use of light framed engineered wood framing in its building code, meaning apartment complexes made from dangerous wood building materials are popping up across the city, increasing the risk of more fires like this one. Mid-rise wood construction projects similar to this one are particularly prone to fire risk due to an increased exposure to outside elements.

"It is the perfect recipe for a large fire. You've got wood that wants to burn, that is exposed," said Captain Rob McDade with the Phoenix Fire Department who responded to the fire.

"The reoccurrence and similarities of these fires across the country is alarming to say the least. This particular project fits the mold – exposed wood in mid-rise construction can prove to be extremely dangerous for cities and local communities," said Steve Trussell, Executive Director for the Arizona Rock Products Association. "Now, all parties involved – from the developer to those that already planned to make this development their home – have experienced a tremendous loss. It is time for a proper response from the City of Phoenix or state officials to prevent future disasters in similar development projects."

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](http://www.buildwithstrength.com)

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