

**Strengthening Codes  
through Community  
Risk Reduction**

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BRYCER

Automatic Fire Alarm Association  
— 2026 —  
Annual Fire Expo  
AFAX

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**How many years have you been in the  
fire service industry?**

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**Career Firefighter Dies during Warehouse Fire at Unpermitted Film Studio – Georgia**

**Executive Summary**  
 On September 8, 2025, a master firefighter died after becoming disoriented while trying to evacuate a warehouse at a commercial structure fire. At 13:32 hours, the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) transmitted an alarm assignment for a business fire. Engines 13 and 25, Quins 17 and 24, Trucks 16 and 25, Battalion 3 and 4, Heavy Rescue (HR) 24, Advanced Rescue 26, and Car 7 were dispatched. At 13:34 hours, Engine 14, Squad 14, and Squad 24 requested to be added. At 13:37 hours, Engine 14 arrived on scene, gave a site-up of a one-story commercial structure with heavy smoke coming from the roofline, and

**Photo 1: View of the warehouse, Side Alpha, post-fire. (Courtesy of the fire department)**

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- How did this happen?
- Have inspections been done?
- Who are the people involved?
- Why didn't we know?

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### State of the Fire Service

- OVERWHELMED** Competing priorities, limited staffing, and capital resources
- UNAWARE** Hidden threats and risks within the community
- UNDER PRESSURE** To perform at a high level with the limitations above
- SHIFTING ENVIRONMENT** Highest rate of retirement, lowest rate of retention, Innovations (AI), Politics, etc.,





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## The Drive Towards Community Risk Reduction (CRR)




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### Defining Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

**CRR is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce its occurrence and impact.**


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**Unique Characteristics of CRR**

- Proactive: Focus on Strategies
- Integrated: Balances Emergency Response, Operations & Prevention
- Data Informed & Driven: Fire, EMS, Demographics, etc.
- Involves Community Partners: PEOPLE

No longer accepting high risks that could have been reduced or avoided altogether!

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**The Reliance on Data**

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**What is your first reaction when you hear the word "data"?**

Do not self-report to anyone else

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**Data is more than numbers.  
It's the foundation for policy,  
resources, services, influence,  
and action!**



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**Let Data Drive**

**90%** of departments identify codes and enforcement as both necessary yet one of the most significant resource challenges....

Here's what's ironic about this data and message:



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**The 1 Area Within  
Our Control?**

**Codes & Standards**



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**Photo 1: View of the warehouse, Side Alpha, post-fire. (Courtesy of the fire department)**



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Common problems across recent fires and investigations fall into a few recurring categories of system, inspection, and building-condition failures.

- Sprinkler in the room of origin did not activate
- Skipped or overdue annual fire alarm inspections and testing, contrary to NFPA 72 requirements
- Buildings were completely absent from the occupancy database or had not been inspected at all
- Limited inspector staffing, high turnover, and poor inventory of properties requiring inspection, leading to chronic under-enforcement

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### The Common Thread?



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### Inspections, Assessments, and Surveys

These methods are designed to identify hazards, mitigate risks, ensure code compliance, provide education, collect data, and foster trust and collaboration.



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**The Numbers Tell The Story**

**70-75%** of fire departments lack the capacity for complete annual occupancy inspections

**24%** don't conduct inspections at all

**50%** of Americans live in areas where no inspections are conducted



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There is not ONE effective inspection method that delivers the information we need to reduce risk and save lives...

But there is ONE we can rely on to increase both  
The protection of property and people

**96%**

**Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance  
of Fire and Life Safety Systems**

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**Which is why  
Inspections, Assessments, and Surveys...**

***Must be used in conjunction with each other!***

- Community Risk Assessments (the process of identifying risks)
- Annual Occupancy Inspections (performed by local AHJ)
- Life Safety Risk Assessments (performed by the business owner)
- ***Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Fire and Life Safety Systems***



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**We have the data...**

**Now WHO?**

**The number one Data-Driven Relationship for Immediate Impact?**

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**Service Providers/Contractors**



- One of the most visible entities in our community
- Are invested in Fire and Life Safety
- Services are critical in adhering to codes and prevention measures
- Have an awareness of the overall building conditions
- Immediately Advance CRR Efforts
- Maintain relationships with the responsible entity; the building owner/occupant



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**Why do we rely on systems?**

Do not self-host to ensure full control

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**The Numbers Tell The Story**

**50%** Of the reason systems fail are due to lack of maintenance

**96%** Increase in system readiness when frequent inspection, testing, and maintenance is tracked, managed, and enforced



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**False Alarms: UL Study**

**3,000,000**

**\$169,000,000**



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**Code Driven & Enforced**

**Fire and Life Safety Systems**

- Properly designed systems
- Properly installed systems
- Properly maintained systems

**NFPA 10, 13, 13R, 13D, 14, 25, 72...**

**Contractors' business is driven by, with, and for the Code; however, the main entities that can ensure system readiness are those that enforce the Code.**

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**How do we bridge the gap?**



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**Technology**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Not as a Replacement for Relationships</b> | But a foundation for smarter ones                |
| <b>Integrated and Accessible</b>              | To help identify risks, including access to data |
| <b>Connects People to Information</b>         | Data delivered vs data gathered                  |
| <b>Software vs Software + Services</b>        | Streamlined processes for immediate impact       |



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### Web-Based Third-Party Reporting: A Proactive Approach

Typically known as Software as a Service (SaaS), Web-Based Technology refers to providing applications accessible over the internet that enable individuals to connect.

Solutions provide a **proactive** approach that directly **engages** with the community to gather essential data that helps **mitigate risks**.

**Most well-known solution: Third-Party Reporting**-Tracking and driving real-time awareness, remediation, and compliance of fire and life safety systems.



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People + Processes + Technology=  
Immediate Impact

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### Connecting People to Information: AHJ + Service Provider + Occupant

- Force Multiplier
- Relationships & Partnerships
- Firefighter & Emergency Response Impact
- Community Impact: Influencing change for sustainable compliance



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**Strategic, Proven, and Adaptable Processes**

- **Real-time Communication & Notification:** Practices and processes that deliver information faster for increased awareness.
- **Response and Action:** Enable rapid recognition and response for timely and informed action, such as increased remediation of systems.
- **Strategic Insights:** Deliver actionable data and information to support confident decision-making

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**Advanced & Cutting-Edge Technology**



- **Verified Data Sources:** Emphasis on the importance of using accurate and reliable data sources such as GIS and scripting.
- **Interoperability:** Ensuring the importance of API-driven integrations and data layering, allowing for seamless collaboration between systems and platforms.
- **Addressing AI:** From code development to services, AI is enhancing and changing this industry.
- **Co-Development:** Development by, with, and for users and the industry.



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**Differences, Matter**

**How and Why Compliance is Gained, Matters**



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### Third-Party Reporting Can't Live on a Dashboard

#### Inspections are a moving and constant process

- Overall management of ITM reports
- Understanding codes and standards
- Constant follow-through
- Need for notifications, communication, and education
- Management of the community's needs (calls, training, development)
- Driving overall compliance
- Additional services and solutions



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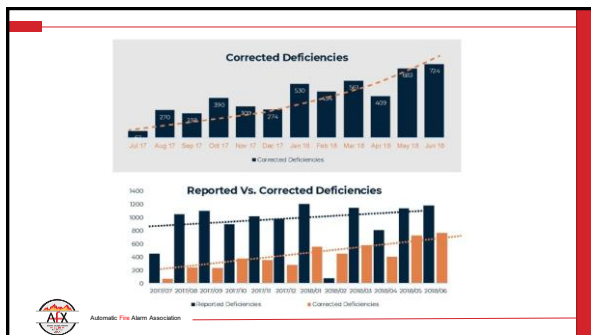
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**Top 5 Violations Reported by System Type**

| System Type | Quantity/Percentage |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Residential | 1,234 (33%)         |
| Commercial  | 876 (24%)           |
| Industrial  | 654 (18%)           |
| Healthcare  | 432 (12%)           |
| Government  | 210 (6%)            |

**3,720** premises are fully compliant. All known fire protection systems are tested and any repairs have been completed (blue).



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**People + Processes + Technology = Lives Saved**

- 85.5%** Average rate of compliance
- 90%** Increase in deficiency remediation
- 100%** Increase in situational awareness

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**Best Practice in CRR: Enhancing the 5 E's**



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**Questions**

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