



BUILDING CODE CHANGES TAKE EFFECT

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta is following through with promised changes to fire and building codes after a wind-whipped blaze destroyed 18 duplexes and damaged 70 other homes in Edmonton in 2007.

Stronger fire code regulations take effect immediately and include improved safety requirements on construction sites.

Building code changes take effect in early May and include a new requirement that fire-resistant gypsum board be used in all new homes with vinyl siding that are built close together.

Fire detectors and gypsum wallboard will also be required in attached garages of new homes, as well as additional sprinklers in new multi-family buildings.

Homebuilders have already cautioned that the changes will add thousands of dollars to the cost of a new home.

But senior firefighters have said that they'd like to see the province go even further and apply some of the safety improvements to existing homes as well. ☉

