

A uniform fire code for the state could make things a whole lot easier for builders. Maybe not so safe, though for individual communities, says lieutenant Craig Snyder, from the La Crosse fire department's inspection bureau. He says a proposal in Madison to make all fire codes the same throughout the state would end special ordinances like the ones La Crosse has. One of them mandates non-combustible building materials in the downtown area because of the age of the buildings in the area. La Crosse also exceeds state fire regs by, among other things, requiring that new building owners get permission from the fire chief before ripping out old sprinkler systems. Those specialized rules and others, says Snyder could be eliminated under a uniform state code, meaning La Crosse could lose protections it needs to stay fire-safe.