



# ROCKWOOL's history of partnerships with fire safety associations

Built into walls, ceilings, floors, attics, roofs and facades, ROCKWOOL stone wool products can help prevent a fire from spreading through the interior or exterior of a building, which could make the difference between having a fire in a building and a building on fire. Preventing a fire from spreading also gives the people inside valuable extra time to evacuate safely and firefighters more time to extinguish the fire.

Homes and buildings are safer when made with fire-resilient stone wool insulation. We know our product can help prevent the spread of fire – but we also know that just making a good product is not enough.



## Helping to make communities like yours more fire-safe

Through our efforts both in product development and partnerships with fire-related organizations, we are helping to create safer homes and buildings for people in communities around the country, including right here in Jefferson County.

Here are the three ways we are helping to make your community safer:

1. Contributing to maintaining strong building code regulations and standards for residential and commercial buildings as well as schools and hospitals.
2. Promoting fire safety by educating the design and development industry on the importance of *exceeding* the minimal code requirements to ensure occupant safety.
3. Sharing new information and research from fire-safety partners with our product development team to optimize our insulation for continued best-in-class fire protection.

## Fire protection comprises three pillars

Each contributes to a balanced approach to protecting people and property:

- 1. Detection:** Installed systems that provide advance warning of fire. These can be as simple as a smoke alarm or as complex as a full fire alarm system.
- 2. Containment:** Structural elements created to separate human beings from fire and smoke, including fire doors, fire-resilient insulation, dampers and fire walls and floor, all of which help to contain the fire to its location of origin. This group of systems is often referred to as passive fire protection.
- 3. Suppression:** On-site equipment that extinguishes fire, with fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems and fire hoses as the most common mechanisms. This group of systems is often referred to as active fire protection.

## Partnerships in fire safety

Parents and concerned citizens in Jefferson County should know that ROCKWOOL is committed to advocating for a greater focus on fire safety and prevention nationwide to create a built environment that is safer for all.

We have partnered with several fire associations and councils to make sure that building codes, laws, regulations and practices promote strong methods of fire safety.

**“Even a well-maintained, complete, appropriate sprinkler system is not a magic wand. It requires the support of a well-considered integrated design for all the other elements of the building’s fire protection.”**

**- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)**

**Learn more about the five key partnerships we have developed on the next page.**

## Our national fire safety partners



INTERNATIONAL FIRESTOP COUNCIL  
THE Source of Firestop Expertise®

### International Firestop Council (IFC)

Partners with ROCKWOOL since 2007

The **International Firestop Council (IFC)** is a nonprofit association of manufacturers, distributors, installers, inspectors and other key stakeholders interested in passive fire protection materials and systems.

This organization promotes fire and smoke containment in building construction through research, education, development of safety standards, testing and code provisions.

#### Our impact

ROCKWOOL is working with the IFC to develop and reinforce passive fire safety measures for buildings, such as fire resistant assemblies, including for those with sensitive occupants such as school children.

Advocating for rigorous Building and Fire Codes, members are working to maintain the requirements for fire ratings in walls and floors, including critical exit routes such as those in school hallways and hospital corridors. The IFC and ROCKWOOL believe in strict requirements that combine both passive and active fire safety measures provide the necessary level of balanced fire protection needed for building occupant safety.



### Fire Safe North America (FSNA)

ROCKWOOL has been a founding member since 2013

**Fire Safe North America (FSNA)** is an active participant in the development process around codes and standards through the International Code Council and NFPA.

The organization works to promote fire resistance and smoke containment, and partners with code officials and designers on property protection, the long-term benefits of fire-resilient building design and promoting firefighter safety.

#### Our impact

ROCKWOOL (formerly ROXUL Inc.) works closely with the organization to advocate for greater fire safety policies and code standards for buildings.

ROCKWOOL and FSNA engaged in the research for **Project FAIL-SAFE**, which looked at current building codes and where fire safety measures have eroded. The study found that many of the changes from lobbying efforts have compromised safety. ROCKWOOL is working with fire safety partners to address this issue as trade-offs for passive fire protection have not been adequately justified.



### National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

ROCKWOOL has been a member since 2015

Founded in 1896, the **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)** is a global, self-funded nonprofit organization and today is a leader on knowledge about fire, electrical and related hazards.

The NFPA is responsible for organizing the annual Fire Prevention Week, and seeks to educate the public on how to be proactive in reducing the likelihood of a fire.

#### Our impact

In 2017, the NFPA created a tool called **EFFECT**, which is an online assessment tool that determines the fire safety of high-rise buildings. With **EFFECT**, construction teams, including those working with ROCKWOOL, are now able to conduct more thorough fire risk assessments of buildings to better understand the fire hazards of exterior walls. This helps prioritize the steps to ensuring a more fire-safe structure.



### National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)

Partners with ROCKWOOL since 2015

The **National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)** mission is to protect life, property and the environment from fire and related hazards. They also work to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State Fire Marshals' operations.

The organization's membership comprises senior fire officials who provide guidance on fire safety code adoption and enforcement, fire investigation practices and fire incident reporting and analytics.

#### Our impact

With NASFM's support, we are focusing on increasing fire safety requirements for Type V buildings (apartments). We are also working to introduce new regulations for facades, which currently do not have fire-test standards.

The combined work of ROCKWOOL and NASFM has raised the profile of fire safety in buildings. With a place on the NASFM President's Council, ROCKWOOL joins discussions of fire-related issues and contributes to ensuring adequate fire safety regulations.



### North American Insulation Manufacturers Association

Partners with ROCKWOOL since 1992

The **North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA)** is the recognized voice of the insulation industry.

It works to leverage the collective insulation expertise of its members to empower the public to make informed insulation choices, which will enable a more comfortable, energy-efficient and sustainable future.

#### Our impact

ROCKWOOL works closely with NAIMA to promote fire-resistant building solutions through education about the fire prevention benefits of stone wool for residential and commercial insulation applications.

Looking to find out more about our community involvement in Ranson, Jefferson County, including partnerships with local fire departments?

Learn more by visiting [rockwool.com/west-virginia/community](https://rockwool.com/west-virginia/community)

> Have a question? **Send us an email at [ransonquestions@rockwool.com](mailto:ransonquestions@rockwool.com)**



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