



For Immediate Release

Contact: Hallie Barnes
4700 Annapolis Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710
Phone: (301) 789-9940
Email: hbarnes@emcoblock.com
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Ernest Maier, Inc. Recommending the Use of Block in Projects

An apartment fire in Edgewater, NJ spread like wildfire due to wood frame structure

Bladensburg, Maryland – *February 12, 2015* – In Edgewater, New Jersey on the 21st of January 2015, an apartment complex was accidentally set ablaze by maintenance men. The fire started on the first floor, and quickly engulfed the entire complex. As a result, a 1000 people have been displaced from their homes.

A sprinkler system was present at the complex, however it was no match for the flames. The purpose is to suppress fire long enough for people to exit. The Edgewater Fire Chief Thomas Jacobson spoke about how sprinkler systems only reach the common areas, but the nook and crannies within the wall are omitted. The walls were made of lightweight wood, which gave the fire fuel to continue to spread throughout the whole complex, thus making the fire virtually impossible to contain.

The Avalon Apartment Complex did not burn down once, but rather twice. The January fire and once during construction. “If it [the structure] was made out of concrete and cinder block,

we wouldn't have this problem," Fire Chief Jacobson said. At Ernest Maier we take pride in manufacturing the highest quality units in the Washington, D.C. area. We make sure to have the best ingredients and people producing every block for any project. These building materials have the ability to stop the spread of such fire due to their fire resistance nature and compartmentation of fire. In addition to being fire resistant, these building materials are resistant to termites and weather conditions, i.e. they do not dry out in the winter, while also being virtually soundproof. These blocks provide insulation against cold and heat, thus them having the ability to reduce a home's energy usage.

The spread of fires can be prevented with the use of the proper building materials. Preventing the spread of fire through compartmentation can be the difference between the loss of belongings, homes, and lives. At Ernest Maier, our employees are always excited to speak with you about your projects and the benefits of using concrete block in your designs. Ernest Maier, creating a better tomorrow starting today.

Learn more about our block products and their benefits at: www.emcoblock.com

Founded in 1926, Ernest Maier, Inc. is your one-stop-shop for architects, designers, contractors, and homeowners. With over 150 employees, Ernest Maier has locations in Bladensburg, MD and Gaithersburg, MD. More information about the materials and services we provide can be found at www.emcoblock.com. For additional information contact Hallie Barnes at hbarnes@emcoblock.com.