

Fire Sprinkler Facts

Legislators and Code Officials Edition



WHY ARE FIRE SPRINKLERS NECESSARY IN YOUR HOME?

- Modern homes are built using lightweight construction and are filled with furnishings made of synthetic materials. Lightweight construction and synthetic furnishings burn hotter and faster than older home construction.
- Modern homes burn 8 times, 800%, FASTER than older homes. Residents typically only have 3 minutes after the smoke alarm goes off to get their family out safely!
- Approximately 3,000 people die in fires in America every year. 80% of fire deaths occur in the single family homes.
- One home fire is reported every 85 seconds.
- One person is injured in a fire every 33 minutes.
- One person dies in a fire every 162 minutes.
- Home fires resulted in \$9.5 billion in property damage in 2013.

WHAT ARE THE COST BENEFITS OF FIRE SPRINKLERS?

- Home fires resulted in \$9.5 billion in property damage in 2013.
- In homes with fire sprinklers, the average property loss is cut by nearly 70% compared to a home without sprinklers.
- It was reported that homes with fire sprinklers report an average property loss of \$2,166 after a fire compared to more than \$45,000 in an unsprinklered home.
- Nationwide average cost for a residential fire sprinkler system is 1-1.5% of the total home construction cost. Visit nfpa.org to ensure you get a licensed fire sprinkler contractor to assist you.
- Often as an incentive for customers, insurance companies offer discounts ranging from 5% to 25% off the fire portion of homeowner premiums.

WHY DO FIRE SPRINKLERS NEED TO BE REQUIRED?

- Residential Fire Sprinklers are already required by code. The current International Residential Code requires all single family homes to be equipped with residential fire sprinklers.
- The estimated cost to the builder to install a residential fire sprinkler system is 1% - 1.5% the cost of the homes. This is often less than the cost of upgraded granite counter tops.
- Many municipalities offer homebuilders incentives to install sprinklers, such as allowing more residential units, longer dead ends, reduced street width, increased hydrant spacing and many other benefits that save money and increase builder profits.
- The automobile industry will require backup cameras by 2018 in all vehicles in an effort to prevent the 210 deaths resulting from back up accidents. Fire sprinklers can provide protection to the approximately 3,000 people, mainly children, elderly and disabled, who die each year in home fires!
- 3 out of every 10 households will experience a fire. While only a few grow large enough to summon the fire department, don't live on luck — include fire sprinklers in your home!

Fire is devastating to people's lives when they are burned. The costs of care is extremely high causing physical, emotional, and financial burdens to all.



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Established in 1905, the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is the voice of the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA leads the drive to get life-saving and property protecting fire sprinklers into all buildings; provides support and resources for its members – fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers and suppliers; and educates authorities having jurisdiction on fire protection issues. Headquartered in Patterson, N.Y., NFSA has regional operations offices throughout the country.

Sources:

Fire Loss in the United States During 2013, Michael J. Karter, Jr.
www.nfpa.org/sprinklercost
Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition
NFPA and Fire Sprinkler Initiative Supplement to Builder's Magazine, December 2014
Fire in the United States, 2003-2007, U.S. Fire Administration