

## Faces of Fire – Human Impact Fact Sheet

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### **Home fire sprinklers protect lives and property against fires.**

Home sprinkler systems respond quickly to reduce the heat, flames and smoke from a fire, giving families valuable time to get to safety.

- Despite the effectiveness of smoke alarms in saving lives, approximately 3,000 people in the United States die in home fires each year, accounting for 80 percent of all fire deaths.
- In reported home fires, the risk of dying decreases by 80 percent when sprinklers are present.
- People in homes with sprinklers are protected against significant property loss – sprinklers reduce the average property loss by 74 percent per fire.
- Any resulting water damage from the sprinkler will be much less severe than the damage caused by water from fire-fighting hose lines. On average, home fire sprinkler systems use about eight times less water than fire hoses.

### **Home fire sprinklers are affordable.**

The Fire Protection Research Foundation recently issued the Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment report, which demonstrated that the cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages \$1.61 per square foot for new construction.

- Many people pay similar amounts for upgrades such as carpeting, stone driveways or whirlpool baths.
- Homes with fire sprinklers are selling faster than those without fire sprinkler systems.
- Installation of home sprinklers can help residents cut homeowner insurance premiums and help qualify homes for tax rebates.

### **Home fire sprinklers act independently from smoke alarms.**

Each individual sprinkler is designed and calibrated to go off when it senses a significant heat change.

- Home fire sprinklers do not operate in response to smoke, burned toast, cooking vapors, steam or an activating smoke alarm.
- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire.
- Roughly 90 percent of the time, just one sprinkler operates.