

FIRE SPRINKLER INITIATIVE: BRINGING SAFETY HOME

Fires in the home pose one of the biggest threats to the people of your community. Over 350,000 home fires occur every year in this country and more than 2,500 people a year die in these home fires. Home fire sprinklers are a proven way to protect lives and property against fires at home.

These life-saving systems respond quickly and effectively to the presence of a nearby fire. When sprinklers are present, they save lives.

- If you have a reported fire in your home, the risk of dying decreases by about **80 percent** when sprinklers are present.
- People in homes with sprinklers are protected against significant property loss—sprinklers reduce the average property loss by **71 percent** per fire.

Model safety codes now require the use of home fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes. These requirements offer the highest level of safety to protect the people of your community.

- Home sprinkler systems respond quickly to reduce the heat, flames, and smoke from a fire, giving families valuable time to get to safety.
- Roughly **90 percent** of the time, just one sprinkler operates.
- Each individual sprinkler is designed and calibrated to go off when it senses a significant heat change.
- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire.

FACTS ABOUT THE COST OF HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS

The Fire Protection Research Foundation recently issued the *Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment* report. The report reveals that the cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages **\$1.61 per square foot** for new construction. Installing home fire sprinklers can:

- Reduce property loss in the event of fire
- Cut homeowner insurance premiums
- Help qualify a home for a tax rebate

FACTS ABOUT U.S. HOME STRUCTURE FIRES

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 362,500 home structure fires in 2009.

These fires caused:

- 2,565 civilian fire deaths
- 12,650 civilian fire injuries
- \$7.6 billion in direct damage

Roughly 85 percent of all civilian fire deaths in 2009 resulted from home structure fires.

On average, eight people a day die in U.S. home fires.

Sources:

Fire Loss in the United States during 2009
by Michael J. Karter, Jr., NFPA, Quincy,
MA, August 2010

Home Structure Fires by Marty Ahrens,
NFPA, Quincy, MA, January 2009



The Fire Sprinkler Initiative®, a project of the National Fire Protection Association, is a nationwide effort to encourage the use of home fire sprinklers and the adoption of fire sprinkler requirements for new construction.

*Data referenced from NFPA, the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, and other sources.