



HOME FIRE SPRINKLER BENEFITS

- Home fire sprinklers can contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene.
- Sprinkler systems control a fire early, so they use only a fraction of the water used by fire department hoses.
- Home sprinklers are cost-effective, especially when installed during new construction. Nationally, on average, they add only 1% to 1½% of the total building cost.
- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire. Ninety percent of fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler.
- The odds of accidental sprinkler discharge due to manufacturing defect are 1 in 16 million.
- Modern residential sprinklers are inconspicuous and can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings.



Source: Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition

Peace of Mind for New Homeowners

Experiencing a fire in the home is a lesson never forgotten, and quite often, a major reason for installing a residential fire sprinkler system.

Case in point is Sara Wilhelm, an Andover, Conn., resident who experienced a fire in her home when she was a teenager. Although she says it was a small fire with no loss of life, she was amazed and haunted by the devastation caused by the smoke, heat and water used to extinguish the blaze.

“There was horrible fire damage to our home, even in that small area. It really made me aware of the consequences of fire. So when my husband and I decided to build our own home, we knew a fire sprinkler system would be a priority,” she says.

“When you build a home, you can pick and choose from different options and upgrades, and we chose a sprinkler system,” she adds. Wilhelm and her husband, who have twin daughters, are now major proponents and advocates of residential fire sprinkler systems.

Another proponent of residential fire sprinkler systems is Katherine McGreen, who has three small children and is having a system installed in her new home in Narragansett, Rhode Island. McGreen admits that she was reluctant and even complacent about the idea at first, but her father, a lifetime member of the National Fire Protection Association in Quincy, Mass. and a career fire service employee, convinced her.

“Honestly, I wasn’t planning to have it installed, but now I’m delighted to have the system and the peace of mind it provides. It was at my father’s suggestion and insistence and I’m glad to have it,”



Katherine McGreen and her father, Laurence Ford, review the plans for her sprinkler system with David Walencewicz, P&J Sprinkler Co.

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Habitat for Humanity Home Includes Sprinkler System

South Shore Habitat for Humanity went above and beyond providing basic housing needs for one owner — it included a residential home sprinkler system in the dwelling. Now, Robyn Murphy of Pembroke, Mass., can rest a little easier knowing that her family not only has a new roof over their heads, but a personal firefighter inside the home.

Murphy's home is the first Habitat house in the Boston area to include a residential fire sprinkler system. Boston-area contractors Central Sprinkler Corporation supplied the materials for the system, and Best Automatic Sprinkler Co. donated the design and labor.

"Home fire sprinkler systems raise fire protection to the next level," says Jeff Ferguson, with Best Automatic Sprinkler Co. "Installing a fire sprinkler system is like having a firefighter on hand 24 hours a day," he adds.

Automatic home sprinkler systems take fire protection a step further when combined with early warning smoke alarms. In less time than it would take most fire departments to arrive on the scene, home fire sprinklers can contain and even extinguish a fire. And, according to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC), technology breakthroughs make sprinklers more affordable and easier than ever to install in homes. Nationally, on average, they cost between \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot.

According to Gary Keith, spokesperson for the HFSC, there is a definite need to increase awareness about the benefits of residential sprinkler systems among homeowners and homebuilders. "That's why this South Shore Habitat project in Pembroke is so important. It will help increase awareness among the community and trade professionals working on the project. We'd love to see residential sprinklers in Habitat homes throughout the country," he says. ■

Video Demonstrates Home Sprinkler Benefits



Two scenes from the video showing the after effects of a fire: above shows with a home sprinkler; below shows without.



Hard-hitting and dramatic, a new educational video developed by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) features people who have actually experienced fires in their lifetimes and others who are proponents of the life-safety devices.

In the video, titled "Protect What You Value Most," HFSC spokesperson Ron Hazelton demonstrates two home fire scenarios, one with a home sprinkler and one without.

The video will be distributed to fire departments for community education.

For more information, contact the HFSC's toll-free line at (888) 635-7222 or visit their web site at www.firesprinkler.org/hfsc.

HFSC At Portland Home Show

HFSC spokesperson Ron Hazelton talked to homeowners about the benefits of home fire sprinklers inside the Portland Spring Home & Garden Show and outside in front of the residential fire sprinkler demonstration trailer.



UPPER: (left to right) Inspector Earl Diment, Portland Fire Bureau; Colleen Olson, Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal; Ron Murray, Local 290 Training Center; and Ron Hazelton.

LOWER: People attending the Portland Home & Garden Show watch a sprinkler extinguish a fire through a window of the residential fire sprinkler demonstration trailer.

Peace of Mind

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she says. In fact, her father, Laurence Ford, hired the fire sprinkler contractor and financed the system for McGreen's home.

"I've worked in fire protection all my life in a variety of capacities," Ford says. "I've responded to many, many fires, and have seen what they do to people. Today, it just doesn't make sense not to have a residential fire sprinkler system.

Now, McGreen is spreading the word about the value of residential sprinkler systems. "The more friends and acquaintances I speak to, I tell them about the value of these devices. Instead of a flagstone patio or another upgrade, for example, you can have a residential fire sprinkler system. It's like having a firefighter stationed in your home," she says.

Katherine McGreen, Laurence Ford and Sara Wilhelm are featured in the new educational video, "Protect What You Value Most," developed by the HFSC. ■



Having experienced a fire as a teen, Sara Wilhelm made sure her family had a residential fire sprinkler system installed in their new home in Connecticut.

Sprinkler Financing: Interest Free!

A fire department in Minnesota is going the extra mile to ensure that as many homeowners as possible install residential fire sprinkler systems.

The Spring Lake Park Fire Department, which covers Spring Lake Park, Blaine and Mounds View, has developed, and is providing to interested consumers, a new program that encourages fire sprinkler system installation. In essence, the plan allows consumers to borrow money from the department to install a residential sprinkler system in their new or existing home — at no interest whatsoever over a period of two years.

This plan is the brainchild of the Spring Lake Park Fire Department which administers the loan program up to a maximum of \$4,000. Applicants must own their own home and enter into an agreement with the fire department. This agreement includes a mechanics lien at the time of application as well as an inspection of the installed system and other criteria.

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"The beauty of the program is not only in the offering itself, but its flexibility."
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— Harlan Lundstrom
Fire & Life Safety
Education Bureau Chief
Spring Lake Park Fire Department
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A Good Cause

The fire department, which is a non-profit corporation covering the three cities and nearly 40 square miles, set up the plan with money it received from insurance rebates. Placed in a special fund, the Spring Lake Park Fire Department handles the financing, billing and administration for the program.

The beauty of the program is not only in the offering itself, but its flexibility, says Harlan Lundstrom, Fire & Life Safety Education Bureau Chief for the Spring Lake Park Fire Department. "Qualified homeowners can borrow up to \$4,000 for up to two years, interest-free," Lundstrom says.

"We're trying to make it as easy as possible for homeowners to install residential sprinkler systems," Lundstrom continues. "If every home was sprinklered, there would be a lot less chance of loss of life as well as property," he says. Other fire departments may be able to start similar programs with the backing of their city, but Lundstrom says educating the public, including insurance companies, realtors and builders, is a must to raise awareness and guarantee the success of such plans. "For example, insurance companies could really decrease their payouts with residential sprinkler systems," he adds. "It's so important for fire departments to start by setting up a task force to examine the barriers and myths and work on dispelling those misconceptions." ■



Home Fire Sprinkler

C O A L I T I O N

Improved Fire Protection Through Public Education

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
PERMIT NO. 77
TINLEY PARK, IL

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For more information about home fire sprinklers, individuals can call toll-free 1-888-635-7222 or go to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition web site at: www.firesprinkler.org/hfsc/

For further information about HFSC partnership programs contact Gary Keith at (617) 984-7263 or via e-mail at gkeith@nfpa.org

The SOLUTIONLINE



Check out the HFSC web page at www.firesprinkler.org/hfsc/. It includes stories from *The Solution*, residential sprinkler facts and HFSC member links!



Home Fire Sprinkler

C O A L I T I O N

Improved Fire Protection Through Public Education

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition was formed in 1996 in response to the tremendous need to inform the public about the life-saving value of home fire sprinkler protection.

The HFSC has developed educational material with details about automatic home fire sprinkler systems, how they work, why they provide affordable protection and answers to common myths and misconceptions about their operation. These materials are available upon request.

Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition

Steering Committee

- American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA)
- Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association (CASA)
- Sharel Stokes Fire Sprinkler Public Education Foundation
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA)
- Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

Affiliate Members

- Advanced Automatic Sprinkler Inc.
- Connecticut Fire Marshal Association (CFMA)
- Illinois Fire Services Association
- New England Association of Fire Marshals
- Rural/Metro (Scottsdale, AZ Fire Department)
- The Viking Corporation