



## OVERVIEW OF NFPA 13D STANDARD

NFPA 13D, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) recommends that contractors install sprinkler systems in accordance with NFPA 13D. This national installation standard is developed by the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The purpose of the standard is to aid in "...the detection and control of residential fires..." and provide "...improved protection against injury, life loss and property damage." Learn more about NFPA 13D at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

### Overview

NFPA 13D is only appropriate for one- and two-family structures and manufactured homes. (See NFPA 13 and NFPA 13R for protection of other structures.) Be aware that local code authorities may have certain requirements that exceed or differ from NFPA 13D.

HFSC and the standard recommend that sprinkler systems be designed and installed by "...persons trained and skilled in the design and installation of residential sprinkler systems."

When a sprinkler system is installed in accordance with NFPA 13D, the system improves the chance for occupants to escape and prevents flashover in the room where the fire starts. (Flashover is when the entire room and its contents ignite.)

NFPA 13D requires a minimum 10-minute water supply (7 minutes under certain conditions – see standard for details). The standard allows Independent, Multipurpose (serving both domestic and fire protection supplies) and Network systems (supplies domestic and fire protection and each sprinkler is supplied by a minimum of three separate paths), as well as listed Dry Pipe systems. (See the standard for details.)

NFPA 13D recommends, but does not require, sprinklers in all areas of a dwelling. The standard permits sprinklers to be omitted from the following spaces:

- Bathrooms smaller than 55 sq. ft.
- Closets and pantries smaller than 24 sq. ft.
- Garages, open attached porches, carports and similar structures
- Attic spaces that are not used for living space
- Covered, unheated projections of the building at entrances and exits
- Ceiling pockets

Please read the standard for compliance with the above exceptions.

NFPA 13D includes information for installation of sprinkler systems in areas where freezing may occur.