



FIRE SPRINKLER INITIATIVE
Bringing Safety Home



Advocating for Home Fire Sprinklers

One of the goals of the Fire Sprinkler Initiative (FSI) is to give home fire sprinkler advocates the tools they need to encourage local governments to adopt legislation mandating these life-saving systems for all new one- and two-family homes. Members of the fire service and other safety advocates are in a unique position to influence the legislative process as leaders in the community. They can speak to the death and destruction they see every day caused by home fires and how home fire sprinklers can help reduce these painful losses.

Be Informed

Before starting a sprinkler advocacy program, make sure you are informed about the current environment surrounding the issue. Be aware of any recent code updates or changes, recent fires in your community that were neutralized by a successful sprinkler activation, or home fire deaths or injuries that could have been prevented by sprinklers. Check www.firesprinklerinitiative.org or www.homefiresprinkler.org for helpful information in these areas.

Build a Coalition

You and your organization can build on your support by identifying and reaching out to other sprinkler advocates in your community. By building a strong grassroots network of supporters, you can create a stronger voice that your local government will find difficult to ignore. This should be a balanced list of advocates that represent a wide variety of groups including, but not limited to, other public safety entities, health-related groups, religious organizations, home-safety advocates, skilled trades, community service groups, and friends and neighbors. Once you have these supporting groups on board, be sure to keep them up-to-date on your activities and let them know what they can do to help the cause.

Show Support for Your Issue

Once you have a local coalition, you will want to begin showing local elected officials the breadth of support for home fire sprinklers through as many avenues as possible. This can be done by sending letters to elected officials or members of the media, gathering signatures on a petition and presenting it to lawmakers, and encouraging advocates to attend public meetings to speak to the critical need for home fire sprinklers. Sample letters and a petition form are available at www.firesprinklerinitiative.org.

Reach Decision Makers

The most important part of making sprinklers for new homes a reality will be convincing local elected officials that this is a life and death issue for their constituents. This can be done by using messages, data, and presentations available on the FSI Web site and others. These decision makers must be convinced that sprinklers are a life-saving fire suppression tool that not only reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and destruction associated with home fires, but also alleviate stress on local fire departments, conserve water, and provide added economic benefits for home owners. A list of arguments for home fire sprinklers can be found on the resources page of www.firesprinklerinitiative.org.