

## FIRE SPRINKLER INITIATIVE: BRINGING SAFETY HOME

***Fires in the home pose one of the biggest threats to the people of your community. Nearly 400,000 home fires occur every year in this country and nearly 3,000 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 **74 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 386,500 home structure fires in 2008.

These fires caused:

- 2,755 civilian fire deaths
- 13,160 civilian fire injuries
- \$8.2 billion in direct damage

Roughly 83 percent of all civilian fire deaths in 2008 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 2008*  
by Michael J. Karter, Jr., NFPA, Quincy, MA, August 2009

*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.