



Beverly Hills Fire Department Presents:

Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives



Facts

Fires in the home pose one of the biggest threats to people. In 2013, U.S fire departments responded to an estimated 1,240,000 fires. These fires caused 3,240 civilian deaths. Of those deaths, 83% occurred in the home, the very place where we feel the safest. Home fires often occur at night when people are sleeping. In less than four minutes, a room can be engulfed in flames before anyone awakes. Those at risk are the very young and older adults. Sadly, on an average day in this country, four children will die from a fire.

Although smoke detectors are essential in every household, they're designed to detect, not control a fire. Home fire sprinklers complement the detectors work, providing a way to fight flames immediately. In less time it would take most fire departments to arrive at your home, fire sprinklers can contain and even extinguish a fire. There's less damage and less chance of deadly smoke and gases reaching your family.



Sprinkler Myths:

In 2013, there was a civilian fire death every 2 hours and 42 minutes in the United States

Some homeowners are reluctant to install sprinklers because of misconceptions about their operation. The reality is that sprinklers are a proven, effective, and reliable technology.

- Myth:** "All fire sprinklers in a system activate at the same time."
Reality: Only the sprinkler head closest to the fire will activate. Roughly 85% of the time, just one sprinkler operates.
- Myth:** "Setting off a smoke detector will cause the sprinkler system to activate."
Reality: Sprinklers are heat sensitive and will only activate when a fire is present.
- Myth:** "Home fire sprinklers often leak or activate accidentally."
Reality: Leaks are very rare, and are no more likely than leaks from a homes plumbing system.
- Myth:** "The water damage from sprinklers is worse than the fire."
Reality: A sprinkler will control a fire with a tiny fraction of the water used by the fire department, typically around 25 gallons per minute. And since the sprinkler activates earlier than the fire department can respond, the fire is kept smaller and, as a result, smoke and fire damage are kept to a minimal.
- Myth:** "Sprinklers are ugly and ruin the aesthetics of my home."
Reality: New home fire sprinkler models are very unobtrusive, can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings, and can be concealed behind decorative covers.
- Myth:** "Newer homes are safer homes."
Reality: In a fire, lightweight construction materials, used in many modern homes, burn quicker and fail faster. New homes often contain modern furnishings made of synthetic materials which, in a fire, can create a highly toxic environment, greater fuel load, and faster fire propagation.
- Myth:** "A smoke alarm provides enough protection."
Reality: Smoke alarms alert occupants to the presence of danger, but do nothing to extinguish the fire. In a fire, sprinklers can control and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive.

Fast Facts:

The risk of dying in a home fire decreases by about 80% if sprinklers are present. Also, home fire sprinklers reduce direct property damage by about 70%.