



Home Fire Sprinkler Systems Preventing Burn Injuries and Death from House Fires

The American Burn Association and the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors supports the installation of home fire sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family homes because fire sprinklers save lives, prevent injuries and protect property. We urge our members to become advocates for the adoption of the residential fire sprinkler building codes.

The Home Fire Problem

- 83% of U.S. civilian fire deaths and 82% of civilian fire injuries occurred in homes in 2008; yet fire sprinklers are rare in 1- and 2-family homes (NFPA).
- 1- and 2-family homes should be a high-priority target for increased sprinkler installation because they accounted for more than 56% of all US structure fires in 2008, and more than 71% of all residential fires. Those fires killed 2,365 civilians and caused 9,185 civilian injuries. (NFPA)
- Fires and burns are the 3rd-leading cause of accidental home injury death. For children ages 1-14, the largest number of home fatalities is due to fire and burns (HSC).
- An estimated 500,000 burn injuries receive medical treatment per year. 43% of admissions to burn centers were from burns in the home; 46% were from fire and flame; 31% were uninsured or underinsured. (ABA)
- First responders are also at grave risk. 53% of all firefighter fire ground deaths in 2007 were in residential fires (76% of those were in 1- and 2-family homes). (NFPA)

Home Fire Sprinklers Prevent Burn Injuries and Deaths

Home fire sprinklers save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property – nothing else is as effective. Smoke alarms are vital home fire protection because they warn people when there is smoke, but individuals must react properly and very quickly to the alarm to benefit from the added time to escape. Fire sprinklers immediately respond to a fire in its early stages, putting water on the flames, giving occupants extra time to escape. The sprinklers' quick action prevents deadly smoke and heat from spreading and often extinguishes the fire before the fire department arrives.

Fire sprinklers are the ultimate fire protection for everyone. And they are particularly useful at protecting those individuals who may have difficulty escaping from a home fire unaided – infants and young children, older adults and people with disabilities – the highest-fire-risk members of our society.

Resources: The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) – a non-commercial, nonprofit 501(c)(3) public safety advocacy group: HomeFireSprinkler.org and SprinklerSmarts.org.

The Fire Sprinkler Initiative – a project of the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/>. Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors – survivor advocates: <http://www.phoenix-society.org> Common Voices – an advocate's coalition: <http://www.fireadvocates.org/>. The United States Fire Administration (USFA): <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov>. Fire Team USA: <http://www.fireteamusa.com/>.