

2011 EDITION

RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS

*Everything You Need To Know
About Installing Fire Sprinklers
In Your New Home*



**Illinois
Association of
Fire Protection
Districts**
iafpd.org



Why Do I Need Fire Sprinklers In My Home?

About 85% of the 3,010 fire deaths recorded in 2009 in the United States occurred in homes.* Fire sprinklers provide the ultimate protection from fire for your property and your family. Fire sprinklers will extinguish a typical residential fire in less than one minute to dramatically improve survival rates.

Why Are Fire Sprinklers Important For Life Safety?

Fire sprinklers do not rely upon human factors such as familiarity with escape routes or emergency assistance. They go to work immediately to reduce the danger. Fire sprinklers prevent the fast-developing fires of intense heat (flashover) that are capable of trapping and killing the occupants of a home.

How Do Fire Sprinklers Operate?

Fire sprinklers are individually heat-activated and connected to a network of plastic Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride (CPVC), copper or steel pipe containing water under pressure. It takes the heat from a fire, reaching between 135°-175°F, to activate the fusible link or glass bulb in the sprinkler. **Only the fire sprinkler over the fire will activate**, thereby releasing water over the source of the heat.

Won't Fire Sprinklers Look Strange In My House?

No. Due to advances in technology, fire sprinklers look better than ever, if you can even see them at all. Fire sprinklers can be concealed behind ceiling plates and out of sight until needed to extinguish a fire. They are available in a wide range of sizes and colors to blend into the background of almost any room.



Do Fire Departments Support Home Fire Sprinklers?

Absolutely. Firefighters are some of the biggest proponents of home fire sprinklers. We encourage you to ask your local fire chief about the importance of fire sprinklers.

*NFPA's "Fire Loss in the U.S. 2009" Report (August 2010)

What About Water Usage?

In the case of a fire, fire sprinklers discharge only a fraction of the water that firefighters' hoses do. During a fire, only the fire sprinkler closest to the fire is activated, limiting the total amount of water needed to suppress a fire. One residential fire sprinkler releases only 10–26 gallons of water per minute.



How Effective Are Fire Sprinklers?

Communities with fire codes that require fire sprinkler systems are enthusiastic about their accomplishments. Prince George's County in Maryland has required fire sprinklers in all new homes since 1992 and did not report a single fire death in a fire sprinklered home during its 15-year study ending in 2007. During that time, the average loss to a home that did not have a residential fire sprinkler system installed was \$9,983, if no fatalities were recorded. When a fatality was involved in an unsprinklered home, the loss was much greater, averaging out to \$49,503. The average loss for a home protected by fire sprinklers was only \$4,883. Having fire sprinklers cut the property loss by almost one-half. Hundreds of communities across the country require fire sprinklers in all new homes and are experiencing similar results.

What Is An NFPA 13D System?

The fire sprinkler system is installed according to the national standard NFPA 13D. It is intended to prevent injury, loss of life and property damage. The system is designed to quickly provide water on a fire in its initial stage of development, which keeps the fire from spreading, preventing flashover and giving residents the necessary time to escape. NFPA 13D requires fire sprinklers only in living areas, not in smaller bathrooms or closets, pantries, garages or carports, attached open-structures, attics and other concealed non-living spaces.

Who Do I Contact For More Information?

Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition

877-550-HFSC

HomeFireSprinkler.org

Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board

866-264-3722

E-mail: NIFSAB@NIFSAB.org

firesprinklerassoc.org



TOWNS AND DISTRICTS WITH NFPA 13D SINGLE-FAMILY HOME RESIDENTIAL ORDINANCES

Aurora
 Alsip
 Barrington (Municipality)
 Barrington Fire Protection District
 Bedford Park
 Bellwood
 Berkeley
 Bridgeview
 Burlington FPD
 Chicago Ridge
 Clarendon Hills
 Country Club Hills
 Countryside Fire Protection District
 Crest Hill
 Des Plaines
 Forest Park
 Glen Ellyn
 Glenside
 Glenwood
 Green Oaks
 Hickory Hills
 Highwood
 Hoffman Estates
 Huntley Fire Protection District
 Indian Creek
 Justice
 La Grange Park
 Lake Barrington
 Lake Bluff
 Lake Zurich (Municipality)
 Lake Zurich Rural FPD
 Libertyville (Municipality)
 Libertyville Fire Protection District
 Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD
 Lincolnwood
 Lisle-Woodridge FPD
 Long Grove (Municipality)

Long Grove Fire Protection District
 Matteson
 Mount Prospect
 Newport Township FPD
 Normal*
 North Maine Fire Protection District
 Northbrook
 Oak Brook
 Oak Brook Terrace
 Oak Forest
 Orland Fire Protection District
 Palatine Rural FPD
 Palos Fire Protection District
 Palos Heights FPD
 Palos Hills
 Park Forest
 Park Ridge
 Pleasantview FPD
 Prospect Heights
 River Forest
 Riverside
 Riverwoods
 Rolling Meadows
 Roselle
 Round Lake Beach
 Schaumburg
 Skokie
 St. Charles
 Streamwood
 Sunnycrest FPD
 Vernon Hills
 Villa Park
 West Dundee
 Wheeling
 Wilmette

*Effective January 1, 2012

For more information:



HomeFireSprinkler.org



FEMA

usfa.dhs.gov

usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-264.pdf
everyonegoeshome.com/summit.html



**Northern Illinois
Fire Sprinkler
Advisory Board**

FireSprinklerAssoc.org



firesafehome.org



nfpa.org

SAVE LIVES. PROTECT YOUR HOME. INSTALL FIRE SPRINKLERS.