

# DID YOU KNOW?



- In 2005 there were 396,000 residential fires costing \$6.9 billion in damage.
- In 2005 there were over 3,000 civilian fire deaths and close to 14,000 civilian fire injuries.
- 83% of all civilian fire deaths occurred in residences.
- A fire occurs in a residential structure every 79 seconds. To the homebuilder, this fact means that a large share of potential customers now have knowledge of the terror and destruction caused by fire.

- Families with children, senior citizens, and handicapped members have special fire protection needs. Home fire sprinkler systems provide added protection for your loved ones.
- Firefighters will have less risk of injury or death since they will be fighting a fire of less intensity.
- Allocation of community resources can be improved with the adoption of home sprinkler technology.
- Communities will be able to make better utilization of available land and thereby increase their tax base.



(DATA COURTESY OF THE NFPA AND US FIRE ADMINISTRATION)

***THE CHOICE IS IN YOUR HANDS  
ARE FIRE SPRINKLERS THE RIGHT PRICE  
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?***



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
(410)-638-4700  
OR VISIT YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**



## RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS *What You Need To Know About Installing Fire Sprinklers In Your New Home*



Courtesy of:

**HARFORD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND EMS ASSOCIATION  
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BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014  
(410)-638-4700  
[www.hcvfema.org](http://www.hcvfema.org)**



Photo Courtesy: [firesprinklerassoc.org](http://firesprinklerassoc.org)

# MYTHS VERSUS FACTS ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

(Courtesy US Fire Administration, NFPA, FireSprinkler.org, Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office)

MYTH: " Fire sprinklers are unsightly."

**FACT:** Residential fire sprinklers come in colors to match ceiling and wall colors and can be recessed or concealed (see opposite page for examples).

MYTH: "Fire sprinklers may go off accidentally."

**FACT:** Factory Mutual Research loss records show that the probability of a fire sprinkler discharging accidentally due to a manufacturing defect is only 1 in 16 million sprinklers per year in service. Approximately 38 million fire sprinklers are installed domestically each year.

MYTH: "If one fire sprinkler head goes off, they all go off."

**FACT:** Fire sprinkler heads are specifically designed to react to temperatures in each room individually. Normally, only the sprinkler over the fire will activate. Data has shown that in residential scenarios, usually one fire sprinkler will control a developing fire; in commercial buildings, as few as three fire sprinklers will do the job.

MYTH: "Fire sprinklers cause water damage!"

**FACT:** Tests conducted by the Los Angeles Fire Department and the US Fire Administration showed that damage caused by fire sprinklers is substantially less than the damage caused by fire department hose streams in an identically un-sprinklered fire and far less than damage caused by a fire which escapes early detection and suppression. Fire hoses, on average, use more than 8 times the water that fire sprinklers do to contain a fire. On average a residential fire sprinkler uses 341 gallons of water to control a fire. Firefighters, on average, use 2,935 gallons of water to control a fire.

MYTH: "Fire sprinklers are just too expensive to install."

**FACT:** With the development of quick-response fire sprinkler systems, which can be supplied by a home's domestic water supply, a single family home under construction can be protected today by a sprinkler system that costs as much as upgrading the carpeting. There are numerous cost saving benefits of residential sprinkler systems including insurance discounts which help offset the cost of installation. Consider the following data when thinking about expenses. In 2005 a study done by the National Institute of Standards and Technology showed that based on 12 years of data from Prince George's County, Maryland fire damage in homes with sprinklers amounted to \$3,429 per reported incident, compared to a potential loss of \$326,752 per incident had the homes not been equipped with a sprinkler system.

MYTH: "Residential fire sprinklers don't save lives."

**FACT:** The evidence against this point is overwhelming. There has not been a single residential fire fatality in a residence with a fire sprinkler system in Prince George's County, Maryland since the inception of their program in 1992. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has no record of a fire killing more than two people in a completely sprinklered public assembly, educational, institutional or residential building where the system was working properly. In cases where fatalities occurred in a building equipped with fire sprinklers, the deceased are almost always in intimate contact with the fire and were burned severely before the sprinkler activated (i.e., smoking in bed, explosions, etc.). Combining a fire sprinkler system with a working smoke alarm system increases the chances of survival by over 97%.

## JURISDICTIONS WITH SINGLE-FAMILY HOME FIRE SPRINKLER ORDINANCES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

FREDERICK COUNTY

CHARLES COUNTY

CARROLL COUNTY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

CITY OF ABERDEEN

HARFORD COUNTY?



Photo Courtesy: Bel Air VFC (MD)

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***Residential fire sprinkler systems cost on average between 1% to 2% of the total building cost in new construction!  
It's like having the fire department living in each room of your house 24 hours a day!***

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RECESSED  
FIRE SPRINKLER



CONCEALED  
FIRE SPRINKLER