

# Make a Convincing Case for **Home Fire Sprinklers**

Support the adoption of home fire sprinkler requirements by highlighting these **key points** to community members, legislators, and code-making authorities.

## Smoke alarms aren't enough

Make no mistake: smoke alarms are crucial and significantly cut the risk of dying in a home fire. But these devices do nothing to suppress a fire. Home fire sprinklers in coordination with smoke alarms have been proven to protect lives and property against fire. In fact, sprinklers cut the risk of dying in a home fire by an astounding **80 percent**.

## Sprinklers do more than save lives

Sprinklers can also save your home. In fact, these devices can reduce the average property loss per home by about **70 percent**.

## Beware of false claims

Sprinkler opponents like to tout that "newer homes are safer homes." In actuality, newer homes tend to have larger open spaces, lightweight construction materials, and furniture stuffed with combustible materials— all factors that exacerbate fire spread and lead to homes burning more quickly than ever before. These threats place both homeowners and firefighters at significant risk.

**FireSprinklerInitiative.org**  
Visit NFPA's Fire Sprinkler Initiative website for more information.

## Home fires are a major problem in North America

Fire in the home poses a significant threat to the people of your community. On average, **2,500** people each year are dying in U.S. home fires. Further showcasing the enormity of this problem is that roughly **80 percent** of all fire deaths are the result of home fires.

## Home fire sprinklers are cost effective

A report commissioned by the Fire Protection Research Foundation places the average national cost of installing sprinklers in new homes at \$1.35 per sprinklered square foot, or about **one percent** of the total construction cost. While costs can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, people tend to pay more for granite countertops.

## Dispel myths on sprinkler effectiveness

Hollywood has it wrong: when one home fire sprinkler goes off, the rest don't follow. Nearly **85 percent** of the time, only one sprinkler activates during a fire. And since sprinklers use significantly less water to suppress a fire than a fire hose, water damage is significantly reduced.



FIRE SPRINKLER INITIATIVE  
Bringing Safety Home

\*Data referenced by NFPA and other sources