

Home Fire Sprinklers

Over 80% of fire deaths occur in the home. Home fire sprinklers can save lives. They respond quickly and effectively to fire, often extinguishing the fire before the fire department arrives. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water on the fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- » Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. In many situations a family who has survived a fire will also have their "home" to live in and enough of the items and space in their home to continue living their lives as they did before.
- » The cost of a home fire sprinkler system in a new home averages \$1.35 per sprinklered square foot totaling an amount similar to what is spent for carpet upgrades, paving stone driveway or a whirlpool bath.
Source: Fire Protection Research Foundation Study 2013.
- » A home fire sprinkler system can reduce the homeowner's insurance premium.
- » Fire departments typically use roughly 10 times as much water as a fire sprinkler would use to contain a fire.
Source: Fire Protection Research Foundation Study 2010.
- » Fire sprinklers are environmentally friendly. They can reduce the amount of water run-off and pollution, fire damage by up to 71%, and water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91%.
Source: FM Global and Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Study 2010.
- » Cigar smoke or burnt toast will not activate a fire sprinkler. Only the high temperature of a fire will activate the sprinkler.
- » A home fire sprinkler system is easy to maintain. Just inspect your home to make sure the sprinklers are not blocked by something that would prevent the water from coming out such as paint and be sure the main control valve is never turned off.
- » Home fire sprinklers are effective in cold and warm climates. Guidelines have been created for the proper installation of systems to avoid pipes freezing. A home fire sprinkler system should be winterized the same way a domestic water supply is winterized

And Don't Forget...

- ➔ If **MOVING** into an apartment or condominium building, make sure common areas and individual apartments are sprinklered.
- ➔ If **BUILDING** a new home or remodeling an existing home, consider installing a home fire sprinkler system.

FACTS

- ❗ More than **2,500** people die in home fires each year.
- ❗ If a home fire occurs, the risk of dying decreases by about **80%** when the home is equipped with a fire sprinkler system.



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Home Fire Sprinklers Ashland, Oregon

Is There Really a Home Fire Problem?

Did you know that more people are killed in fires in the United States each year than those who are killed in all of the natural disasters combined? More than 3,000 people are killed each year in fires, and 80% are killed in the safety of their own home. Many home fires happen while people are sleeping, which means they are not as quick to respond as when they are awake. In just a few minutes, a fire can become untenable in a home, even before people are awake and ready to evacuate.

Smoke alarms are the first line of defense for a home fire. Make sure you have **working** smoke alarms in your home. We recommend that they are installed in each bedroom, in the hall outside each bedroom and on each floor. Smoke alarms are designed to wake you in the event there is smoke in your home.

Home fire sprinklers will help to control a fire before firefighters arrive. Home fire sprinklers give your family more time to get out in the event of a fire, and normally there is less damage in the end.

Ashland Fire & Rescue on Fire Sprinklers

Ashland Fire & Rescue encourages you to consider home fire sprinklers if you are buying or building a new home. With home fire sprinklers and working smoke alarms, your family's chance of surviving a home fire is 100% based on National Fire Protection Association research.

Having received a Fire Prevention and Safety grant from FEMA, Ashland Fire & Rescue and Medford Fire Rescue are working together to promote fire sprinklers to our communities. The grant is funding a fire sprinkler demonstration trailer, the creation of a public service announcement and paid advertising, public education to about fire sprinklers and the retrofit of two at-risk homes with fire sprinklers. Watch for an opportunity to see the fire sprinkler demonstration! For more information about home fire sprinklers—

www.ashland.or.us/firesprinklers

KITCHEN FIRE



Results of a typical kitchen fire. Fire started on top of the stove and burned the cabinets and ceiling above. Firefighters sprayed a few hundred gallons of water and pulled part of the burned ceiling down to make sure the fire was out above the ceiling.



The typical kitchen fire causes smoke and heat damage throughout the house. The upper third of the blinds are warped from the heat. Smoke staining can be seen on the walls.

What if home fire sprinklers were installed?

Fire in Multi-family Housing with Fire Sprinkler Activation

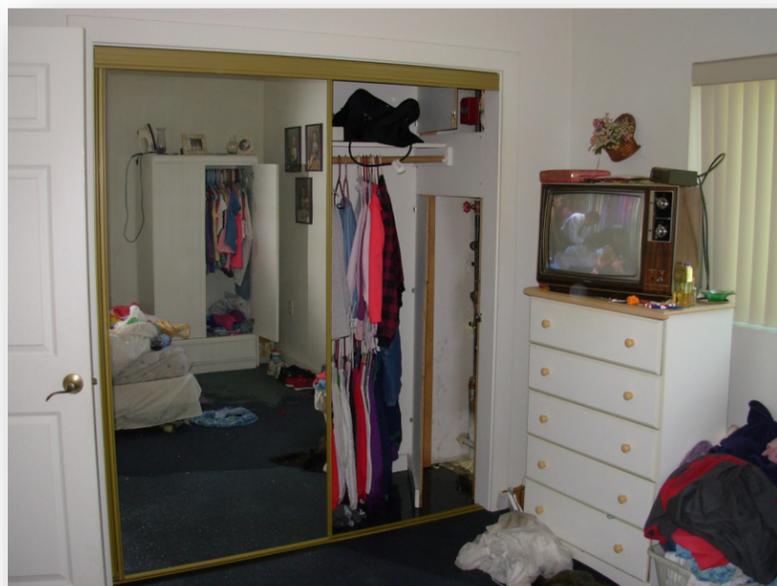


Ashland, OR 2007—This is a multi-family apartment building with a fire caused by cigarette butts discarded in a garbage can. The fire was in the downstairs unit shown in this picture. The fire sprinkler system activated, controlling the fire before firefighters arrived. This fire displaced only one family, and the repairs were accomplished in just a few weeks, allowing the displaced family to return to their home quickly. Few of their belongings were damaged or destroyed.



Fire confined to garbage can in a pantry.

Neither fire nor water caused damage in the bedroom. There was smoke damage in the pantry, and there was some water damage in the kitchen and living room. Personal property was salvageable and other tenants stayed in their home that night.



Fire in Multi-family Housing with Fire Sprinkler Activation

Ashland, OR 2009—A fire started in this apartment on Quincy. This unit was in the middle of a two-story, multi-family complex. Each unit had two floors.

The fire was caused by a candle that had been left burning approximately 24 hours earlier. The resident had left town the previous afternoon.

The fire sprinkler system controlled the fire, requiring displacement of only this tenant. While water damage occurred to this unit and the adjacent units, the damage was far less than the smoke and char that would have occurred if the fire had continued to burn while the fire department was enroute, not to mention the thousand gallons of water that may have been used to suppress the fire.

Photo below shows the candles that had been left burning on top of a bookcase causing the fire spread up the wall.



There was no lack of ignition sources.

