



## **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 79% 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 72% 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. 62% of all firefighter deaths at structure fires in 2008 were at residential fires (all but one where 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 provide passive protection – they respond to a fire in its early stages, putting water on the flames, and immediately 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](http://HomeFireSprinkler.org) and [SprinklerSmarts.org](http://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/>.

# Fight for Safety

## Oppose Anti-Sprinkler Legislation

### Background

Despite overwhelming evidence that sprinklers save lives, reduce property damage and provide other important benefits, sprinkler opponents worked for years to keep home fire sprinkler requirements out of the latest model safety codes. Those efforts failed. In fact, today every model code for new home construction calls for the installation of automatic fire sprinklers. So, now sprinkler opponents are turning to state legislators as they work to prevent the use of home fire sprinklers.

### Anti-Sprinkler Legislation

Sprinkler opponents are asking state lawmakers to prohibit local communities from selecting model safety code provisions regarding sprinklers. Anti-sprinkler bills already being considered in several states would:

- Weaken public safety
- Ignore the proven impact of home fire sprinklers
- Take away each jurisdiction's right to decide on critical safety code provisions
- Establish a precedent putting politics above proven safety technology
- Disregard the long established consensus code process

### What You Can Do

If sprinkler opponents are working in your state to prevent the use of this life-saving technology in new homes:

- Contact your state legislator as soon as possible and express your opposition to such a prohibition.
- Reach out to other safety advocates in your state to make them aware of this threat to safety.
- If you want to help sign up on the Phoenix Society Home Page [www.phoenix-society.org](http://www.phoenix-society.org)
- Sign up for updates from the Fire Sprinkler Initiative ([www.firesprinklerinitiative.org](http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org)) to stay on top of the latest developments in this fight for safety.



A PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL  
FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

### Home Fire Sprinklers:

- Reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by 80 percent
- Reduce property damage caused by fires
- Are proven to be dependable
- Enhance firefighter safety
- Are required for new home construction by the latest editions of nationally recognized safety codes