



Position Statement

Home Fire Sprinkler Systems Preventing Burn Injuries and Death from House Fires

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 78% of civilian fire injuries occurred in homes in 2013; yet fire sprinklers are rare in homes (NFPA.org, 7/15/15).
- One and two family homes should be a high-priority target for increased sprinkler installation because they accounted for almost three-quarters (71%) of the reported home structure fires. From 2007 to 2011, fires killed an average of 2,570 civilians and caused 13,210 civilian injuries per year. (NFPA.org, 7/15/15)
- An estimated 486,000 burn injuries receive medical treatment per year. (ABA, Ameriburn.org, 7/15/15)
- First responders are also at grave risk. 40% of all firefighter deaths in 2014 were at residential fires. (NFPA.org, 7/15/15)

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 early warning they provide. Fire sprinklers provide active 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. Sprinklers decrease the fire death rate per 1,000 reported home fires by about 80% and reduce the average loss per home fire by about 70%.

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.