

Safety Fact Sheet



The Utah Safety Council cares about your safety outside of the work setting. We offer resources that keep you and your loved ones safe at home, at play and on the go.

FACTS ABOUT HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS

Sprinkler systems are not just for hotels and large office buildings. Home fire sprinkler systems are becoming more and more practical and are strongly encouraged by the fire marshal.

Fire is Fast

A fire can double in size every 30 seconds causing everything in a room to burn in as little as three minutes. It takes about two minutes to escape and call 9-1-1 and a metropolitan fire department will probably take about five minutes to arrive. During these seven minutes a fire will be burning outside of the room it started in.

Home Fire Sprinklers are Fast

Home fire sprinklers activate individually from the high heat of a fire and spray water onto the fire, usually in less than 90 seconds after the fire started. The fire sprinkler contains the fire while the family is still escaping and provides more time for escape, especially if someone in the home cannot escape without assistance.

Home Fire Sprinklers Protect

Home fire sprinklers are designed specifically to protect the people in the home by giving them at least 10 minutes of cool, clear air to safely escape. Having home fire sprinklers is like having a firefighter in your home 24 hours a day; maybe even better.

Fire is Hot

Heat kills. The heat in a room with a fire can kill in less than 3 minutes, even near the floor, when the temperature reaches 390°F.

Home Fire Sprinklers Cool

When the high heat of a fire reaches about 150°F at the sprinkler, the fire sprinklers sprays water and cools the room. Temperatures, even at eye level, rarely reach 90°F protecting people in the home. Only one fire sprinkler activates at a time from direct high heat unless a fire is between two sprinklers activating both. All sprinklers do not automatically spray water because one goes off.

Fire is Poisonous

Smoke kills. Smoke from a house fire is full of poisonous gases including carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide. Smoke from a fire will spread through the house through hallways and open doors. From the time a smoke alarm activates until your exit route is blocked with smoke can be less than 90 seconds.

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Home Fire Sprinklers Reduce Smoke

By activating when the fire is small and quickly containing the fire, smoke levels are kept dramatically low and poisons are limited to survivable levels. Smoke does not activate a fire sprinkler, nor does a sounding smoke alarm.

Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

These are photos of two identical dorm rooms with identical fires. The photo on the left did not have fire sprinklers. The photo on the right had fire sprinklers.

Source: <http://firemarshal.utah.gov/cigaret-links/>