

FIRE SPRINKLER TALKING POINTS

Fire Incidents, injuries and deaths declined dramatically in the last 30 years in the installation of fire sprinklers or the need to mandate fire sprinklers in new homes.

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- The latest NFPA study [Home Structure Fires](#) (2013) reports that home structure fires dropped 50 percent from 734,000 in 1980 to 370,000 in 2011.
- The drop is even greater when population growth is taken into account. The rate of reported home fires per million population fell 63 percent from 3,230 in 1980 to 1,187 in 2011.
- Home fire deaths hit a new low in 2011, when the estimated home fire death toll of 2,520 was 52 percent lower than 5,200 in 1980.
- Even more dramatic is the drop in the rate of home fire deaths per million population, falling 65 percent from 22.9 in 1980 to 8.1 in 2011.
- The same NFPA study also highlights that “the home fire problem is dominated by one- and two-family home fires”. Home fires in one- and two-family dwellings accounted for 75 percent of fire incidents, injuries and deaths that occurred since the late 70s. According to the 2009 report, the number of fires reported in one- and two-family dwellings equipped with sprinklers was 0.2 percent in 1980 and 1.2 percent in 2006.
- In fact, sprinkler usage in one- and two-family home fires is so low that the most recent report

["U.S. Experience with Sprinklers"](#) does not provide separate estimates for fires in one- and two-family sprinkler-equipped dwellings but rather combines them with the fire incidents in sprinkler-equipped apartments. Still, in 2006-2010 sprinklers were present in only 6% of home fires.

USFA and NFPA data continue to show the life -

- The 2011 NFPA study "[Smoke Alarms in U.S. Home Fires](#)" documents how the home smoke alarm became the fire safety success story. From 1977 to 1984, the use of home smoke alarms skyrocketed. The share of homes with at least one smoke alarm increased from 22 percent in 1977 to 74 percent in 1984 and continued to rise to 95

rescue.

- Sprinkler systems are expected to work in the event of a fire, but like any system maintenance is required to ensure it will operate when a fire is detected. Proponents claim that a NFPA 13 D