**Fire Sprinklers: Four Benefits You May Not Know**

Fires are fast and they can become deadly in less than three minutes. In fact, a life is lost approximately every four days due to fire in North Carolina. While home fire sprinklers can help to eliminate them, provisions and a lack of awareness about the technology have prevented the widespread use of fire sprinklers in new homes.

Fire sprinklers may not look pretty; however, most are now hidden with decorative trim moldings and/or covers until activated. And if you think about how your home would look after a fire has ravaged it, the investment in a fire sprinklered home is well worth it. Not only do sprinklers save lives, they save money, as sprinklers can reduce the cost of fire and water damage by hundreds of thousands of dollars. Additionally, they reduce water usage, water runoff, toxins released by fire as well as building materials, furnishings and contents that would otherwise go to a landfill.

Today, all U.S. model building codes include sprinkler requirements for all new, one and two-family homes, according to the International Code Council. “Homes constructed without sprinklers lack a crucial element of fire protection,” said Chief Tracy Mosley, program manager, North Carolina VWS Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS). “Fire sprinklers have heat-sensing abilities that trigger the sprinklers into action well before the fire department arrives.”

According to statistics published by the National Fire Protection Association, when installed along with functioning smoke detectors, home fire sprinklers provide **at least four impressive safety benefits:**

* Where fire sprinklers are installed, death rate of occupants in [home fires](https://www.rytechinc.com/blog/after-the-fire-cleaning-up-the-water-damage/) are 81% lower than homes without sprinklers.
* Firefighter injuries are reduced by more than 80% when responding to residential fires where sprinklers are installed.
* [Property loss](http://www.rytechinc.com/water-damage) due to fire in a home with sprinklers is reduced by 70%.
* In more than 95% of recorded incidents, fire in a home with a sprinkler system was restricted to the room of origin and did not spread to the rest of the house.

In a new national Harris Poll survey, homeowners demonstrated improved awareness about the benefit of home fire sprinklers. A report commissioned by the Fire Protection Research Foundation places the average, national cost of installing sprinklers in new homes at $1.35 per square foot. So take the initiative to have the installation of home fire sprinklers in all new homes.

***Want to Do More to Help? Volunteer!***

The name of department is currently participating in the North Carolina Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) initiative, a program dedicated to increasing the number of volunteer firefighters throughout the state. More than 70% of all fire personnel in North Carolina are volunteers, and the majority of fire departments throughout the state are experiencing a volunteer shortage. Local fire departments need volunteers of all skill levels and abilities, people willing and able to respond to emergencies whenever called.

“The skills and experience gained as a volunteer firefighter are invaluable and have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of others,” says Chief Mosley, “Those who join their local fire departments are signing up for one of the most rewarding opportunities they’ll ever have.”

To volunteer at your local fire department, visit [www.volunteerfirenc.org](http://www.volunteerfirenc.org) or text “firefighter” to 88799 to be kept up to date about the program.

To discover ways that you or your organization can help the campaign to recruit volunteer firefighters, visit [www.weneedfirefighters.org](http://www.weneedfirefighters.org).