 

*For Immediate Release*May XX, 2019

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**Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives and Property**

Did you realize that most fire deaths in the U.S. happen at home, just where you and your family should feel and be safest? Fire departments respond to an average of one home fire every 88 seconds. Between 2012 and 2016, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 355,400 home structure fires per year. These fires caused 11,670 civilian injuries, 2,560 civilian deaths, and $6.5 billion in direct damage. Home fire sprinklers can change these statistics!

Home fire sprinklers reduce the heat, flames, and toxic smoke produced in a fire. Properly installed and maintained fire sprinklers help save lives and property. Fire sprinklers have been around for more than a century, protecting commercial and industrial properties and public buildings. What many people don't realize is that the same life-saving technology is also available for homes, where about 80% of all civilian fire deaths occur.

Many people believe that smoke alarms are enough protection in case of a home fire. While smoke alarms will alert you to a fire, they can’t control or extinguish the flames. While smoke alarms are a critical first step in home fire safety, studies have shown that fires in modern homes can grow quickly and reach flashover in as little as two to three minutes. Flashover is the point in a fire where survivability is no longer attainable. These conditions can be avoided with home fire sprinklers, providing you and your family with valuable time to escape. The addition of fire sprinklers and smoke alarms to your home increases your chances of surviving a fire by over 97%. Fire reports nationwide show that property damage is nine times lower in sprinklered homes.

This year, ***May 19-25*** has been designated ***Home Fire Sprinkler Week***. Many local fire departments will be joining in to educate the public about the life- and property-saving benefits of home fire sprinklers. Check with your fire department to see what activities are scheduled and take the family out to learn the difference that fire sprinklers make in a home fire. It is often the difference between life and death.

Home Fire Sprinkler Facts:

* Home fire sprinklers can contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene.
* Nationwide, more than 3,000 people die in fires each year. Fire sprinklers save lives, reduce property loss and can even help cut homeowner insurance premiums.
* Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire. Ninety percent of fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler.
* Nationally, on average, home fire sprinklers cost $1.35 per square foot of sprinklered space in new construction.
* Home fire sprinklers use only a fraction of the water used by fire department hoses.
* Home fire sprinklers are at least as reliable as home plumbing systems.
* Modern residential sprinklers are inconspicuous and can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings

Excellent resources are available online to further your education about the benefits of home fire sprinklers. Videos, FAQs and informational materials on how they work, why they provide affordable protection and answers to common myths and misconceptions about their operation may be accessed at the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition’s website, [www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org). We encourage our community to take the time to learn more about this life- and property-saving technology and to consider fire sprinklers when building, buying or renting a home. Fire sprinklers buy time. Time buys life.

Insert your Department name relies on brave men and women to volunteer their time to serve as volunteer firefighters to ensure that every call for help is answered. Men and women with almost every skill set are needed. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Insert your Department name at Insert website or call Insert your Dept. phone number.

There are volunteer opportunities at your local volunteer fire department for citizens willing to work hard. To learn more about becoming a volunteer firefighter and joining your local volunteer fire department, please visit [www.VolunteerFireTN.org](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org).

*About the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. (TFCA)
The TFCA provides leadership to career and volunteer Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities. The TN Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) also encourages the professional advancement of the fire service to ensure and maintain greater protection of life and property from fire and natural or man-made disasters. The TFCA’s mission is to provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers, and managers of Emergency Service Organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities. More information about the TFCA is located at* [*www.tnfirechiefs.com*](http://www.tnfirechiefs.com) *.*

*About Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS)
The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association was awarded a SAFER recruitment and retention grant in 2016 and partnered with the International Association of Fire Chiefs to identify recruitment and retention goals, strategies and marketing methodologies that would benefit not only participating departments, but all fire departments in the state. 19 departmental groups, consisting of 64 departments, were selected to participate in Phase I of the program. The VWS program is also operating in Virginia through the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association and Connecticut through the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. There is also currently a National VWS effort focusing on diversity and new trainings. More information about the Tennessee VWS can be found at* [*www.VolunteerFireTN.org*](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org)*.*

*(Insert info about your department in similar format to above)*