

## Myths vs. Facts

**Myth:** When there is a fire, every sprinkler activates.

**Fact:** Heads are individually activated by the heat from the fire. One head can usually extinguish and contain the fire to that area.

**Myth:** Water damage from the sprinkler system will be greater than the fire damage.

**Fact:** Damage from the low volume of water from sprinklers (10-26 gallons per minute) is significantly less than smoke and fire damage combined with the high volume of water (75-250 gallons per minute) from firefighters' high-pressure hoses.

**Myth:** Sprinklers go off accidentally, causing water damage.

**Fact:** Residential sprinkler accidents are extremely rare and are generally less likely and less severe than standard home plumbing mishaps.

**Myth:** Residential Sprinkler Systems are expensive.

**Fact:** The cost of a system for a single-family residence averages about 1.5 percent of the home's total cost. That is comparable to an upgrade in carpeting, yet the sprinkler system lasts the life of the home while carpeting must be replaced periodically.

**Myth:** A smoke alarm is all I need.

**Fact:** Smoke alarms save lives by providing early warning. However, they can do nothing to extinguish fire or protect those physically unable to escape on their own, such as the elderly or small children.

## Additional Fire Safety Tips

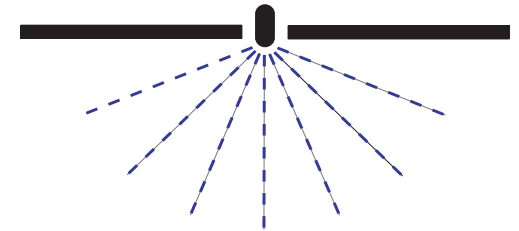
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, in bedrooms, and outside any other sleeping areas. Test your alarms every month, and replace the batteries as needed.
- Develop an escape plan for your home and practice it. Draw the floor plan of your house and identify two ways out of every room. Designate an outside meeting place where everyone can gather after exiting. In the case of an actual fire, get outside before calling 9-1-1 from your cell phone or a neighbor's phone.
- Teach your children about the dangers of lighters, matches, and any type of fire.
- Know how to extinguish small fires on the stove. Simply sliding a lid over a pan fire will usually extinguish the fire. In the case of an oven fire, simply turn off the oven and do not open the door!
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it.
- Teach your children how to call 9-1-1 for help in emergencies.

For more information, visit our  
Safety Tips page at  
[www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com)



We're *Your* Fire Department  
(503) 259-1500

## Residential Sprinklers



### ***A Few Heads Are Better Than None!***

Low-cost sprinkler systems can save you, your family, and your belongings in the event of a fire.

Here's how you can add significant protection to your home.



In less time than it would take most fire departments to arrive on the scene, residential sprinklers can contain and even extinguish a fire.

*It's almost like having a firefighter in every room of your home.*

## Safety

People with smoke alarms in their homes have a greater chance of surviving a fire through early detection than those in homes without smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Association. The addition of a Residential Sprinkler System greatly increases your chances of surviving a fire.

In addition to reducing the chances of deadly smoke reaching your family, damage to your home is reduced where sprinklers are installed. The American Fire Sprinkler Association reports property losses are significantly less in a residence equipped with sprinklers than in a residence without sprinklers.

Residential sprinkler systems produce added protection for people at highest risk of injury or death in a fire (children, elderly, or disabled persons). Sprinklers provide a high level of protection with minimum upkeep.

Bottom line, the combination of smoke alarms and residential sprinklers cut your risk of dying in a home fire by 82 percent.



*Installation of piping and head manifold during construction*

## Convenience

Since a Residential Sprinkler System is fed by your domestic water supply, there is no need for a separate water meter, backflow valve, or annual inspection by outside vendors. As long as you protect your regular plumbing from freezing, the sprinkler system is protected as well. The only requirement is that any future plumbing repairs be completed by a contractor with the same experience and qualifications as the installing contractor.



*Finished hidden sprinkler head installation.*

Sprinkler heads are available in a variety of designs and colors allowing them to blend into the interior decor with ease. Some models can be mounted flush to, or completely recessed into the ceiling.

## Selecting a Contractor

Check your phone directory under the headings "Plumbers" or "Fire Sprinklers" for contractors experienced with installing Residential Sprinkler Systems. Choose a contractor who strictly adheres to the national NFPA 13D code and complies with local code requirements.

Ask for references and contact the homeowners to ask if they are satisfied with their sprinkler system and the contractor.



*In sprinklered homes, 90 percent of fires are contained by just one sprinkler.*

## Cost

According to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, a residential fire sprinkler system installed within a new home equates to approximately 1.5 percent of the total building cost; about the same as an upgrade in carpeting or cabinets. Architectural features and available water supplies may affect total cost and retrofitting existing homes may be higher. Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue recommends consulting fire sprinkler or plumbing contractors for a quote specific to your home.

Some water departments will waive the increase in System Development Charges (SDCs) that are incurred by the installation of a Residential Sprinkler System. Other savings can be realized through discussions with water purveyors, your fire department, and the plans examiners. Some insurance companies offer a 5 to 15 percent discount on fire insurance premiums when sprinkler systems are installed.

More information is available online at [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com).