

HOME FIRE SPRINKLER WEEK 2024 Letter to Editor

Use the **red text** to customize letter to editor with your local information.

Cut and paste using your fire department letterhead and send to your local media.

(280 words)

In every community, including ours, home fires are a severe threat to residents as well as responding firefighters. While homes have been the central fire challenge for decades, today this problem is intensified by the fact that unprotected home fires become deadly in just two minutes or less.

To confront this stubborn public safety burden, we are joining with fire departments and safety advocates across North America May 12-18 to increase awareness about the life safety benefits of installing home fire sprinklers.

[Add a sentence or two here about your community outreach.] By participating in Home Fire Sprinkler Week, we will send a powerful message locally and nationally that every new home constructed is an opportunity to help end the home fire problem.

Fire safety advocates work hard to educate about home fire dangers, but every fire cannot be prevented. We also try to counter the common fallacy that new homes don't burn, but it's a stubborn myth. The truth is today new homes are most commonly built with unprotected lightweight wood construction, and designed with large, open spaces. Homes are filled with synthetic furnishings that burn hotter and faster than natural materials producing more toxic smoke. Emerging technology, like lithium-ion batteries also cause fires to burn fast. Regardless of age, home fires now burn faster than ever and become deadly more quickly.

When things go wrong and a fire starts, home fire sprinklers work automatically and very effectively, making a safe escape possible. Installed fire sprinklers are proven to prevent injuries, save lives and protect property.

Home fire sprinklers are part of our community risk reduction strategy. We urge our residents and local decision makers to educate themselves on how home fire sprinklers can protect our city's future generations and our first responders. Every new home built in our community should be protected with home fire sprinklers.

[Your name and title]