



RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER EDUCATIONAL MESSAGING

The following educational messages are recommended for use by fire departments, public information officers and public educators when speaking about home fire sprinklers. This information has been extracted with permission from the National Fire Protection Association's Educational Messages Advisory Committee (EMAC) [2018 Desk Reference](#).

CHAPTER 2 Home Fire Sprinklers

2.1 General Tips

2.1.1 Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers can reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire, allowing people more time to escape.

2.1.2 Home fire sprinklers activate on an individual basis. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water on the fire and not the rest of the home.

2.1.3 A home fire sprinkler can control or put out a fire with a fraction of the water that would be used by fire department hoses.

2.1.4 Accidental sprinkler discharges are rare.

2.1.5 Home fire sprinklers can be installed in new or existing homes. If you are remodeling or building your home, install home fire sprinklers.

2.2 Installation

2.2.1 Have a qualified contractor install your home fire sprinkler system according to NFPA codes and standards and local fire safety regulations.

2.2.2 Home fire sprinklers work along with smoke alarms to save lives.

2.3 Maintenance

2.3.1 The home fire sprinkler installer must provide instructions on inspecting, testing, and maintaining the system, a simple process that can be performed by the home occupant. A visual inspection should be done each month to ensure that the water valve on the sprinkler system is open.



2.3.1.1 Make sure that your home fire sprinkler system is working properly by

(A) Conducting a visual inspection of all home fire sprinklers each month to make sure nothing is blocking them and nothing is hung from or attached to them.

(B) Doing a water flow test on the sprinkler system every six months (or having a fire sprinkler contractor do the test) to ensure all water flow devices are working.

(C) Keeping home fire sprinklers clear and free of objects that can interfere with their proper use.

(D) Inspecting tanks, if present, each month to make sure that they are full.

(E) Starting the pump, if present, each month to make sure that it works and that it does not trip any circuit breakers.

(F) Not painting fire sprinklers. If you are painting in the area, cover the sprinkler head with a bag and remove after the work is done.