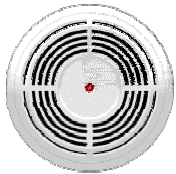


Tennessee Coalition of Fire Service Organizations: (Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association, and Tennessee Fireman's Association.) Contact: Alan Farley 615-904-0590



The Problem: When a fire occurs in a facility where the occupants are not able to assist in their own evacuation, more time is needed for staff and rescuers to assist the occupants in exiting the facility.



The Solution: Early detection and quick suppression of the fire.

Each facility should be required to have a fire alarm system and automatic sprinklers meeting NFPA 13, 13D, or 13R as deemed appropriate. The sprinkler system should be maintained in accordance with NFPA 25. The alarm system should be in compliance with the Life Safety Code. Smoke detectors should be installed in corridors and sleeping rooms.



Financial Incentives to Encourage Sprinklers:

- ❖ No fire protection stand-by fees by water providers.
(*Instead charge facilities that do not provide sprinklers a sur-charge.*)
- ❖ Set a maximum sprinkler system tap fee based on cost.
- ❖ Provide tax incentives. (Property tax, sales tax, etc.)
- ❖ Remove or reduce plans review fees on sprinkled buildings.

MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLERS

Automatic sprinkler systems have enjoyed an enviable record of protecting life and property for over 100 years. **In fact, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there has never been a multiple death fire in a fully sprinklered facility.** Yet, there are still common misunderstandings about the operation and effectiveness of automatic fire sprinkler systems:

Myth 1: "Water damage from a sprinkler system will be more extensive than fire damage."

Fact: Water damage from a home sprinkler system will be much less severe than the damage caused by water from fire-fighting hose lines or smoke and fire damage if the fire goes unabated. Quick response sprinklers release 8-24 gallons of water per minute compared to 50-125 gallons per minute released by a firehose.

Myth 2: "When a fire occurs, every sprinkler head goes off."

Fact: Sprinkler heads are individually activated by fire. Residential fires are usually controlled with one sprinkler head. 90% of all fires are controlled with six or fewer heads and a study conducted in Australia and New Zealand covering 82 years of automatic sprinkler use found that 82% of the fires, which occurred, were controlled by two or fewer sprinklers.

Myth 3: "A smoke detector provides enough protection."

Fact: Smoke detectors save lives by providing a warning system but can do nothing to extinguish a growing fire or protect those physically unable to escape on their own, such as the elderly or small children. Too often, battery operated smoke detectors fail to function because the batteries are dead or have been removed. As the percent of homes in America that were "protected" with smoke detectors increased from zero to more than 70%, the number of fire deaths in homes did not significantly decrease.

Myth 4: "Sprinklers are designed to protect property, but are not effective for life safety."

Fact: Sprinklers provide a high level of life safety. Statistics demonstrate that there has never been any multiple loss of life in a fully sprinklered building. Property losses are 85% less in residences with fire sprinklers compared to those without sprinklers. The combination of automatic sprinklers and early warning systems in all buildings and residences could reduce overall injuries, loss of life and property damage by at least 50%.

Recent Tennessee Experience:

Memphis	March 21, 1988	3 deaths
Johnson City	December 24, 1989	16 deaths
Nashville	September 25, 2003	13 deaths