



THE FIRE PROTECTION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment – 5 Year Update

Background

In 2008 Newport Partners conducted a study for the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) to provide a national perspective on the cost of home fire sprinklers by developing data on system costs as well as cost savings for ten communities, distributed throughout the United States. At that time sprinklers were mandated in some communities, but not others. And, although sprinklers were becoming more common in one and two family dwellings, adoption was not widespread.

Sprinkler system application in homes has steadily increased in recent years, driven in large part by building codes, outreach, and education. According to the Fire Sprinkler Initiative, two states have sprinkler requirements in place for all new one- and two-family dwellings with numerous others in the process of partial or full adoption of the 2009 IRC provisions.

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to review the current costs of home fire sprinkler systems against the 2008 benchmark study to better understand the relationship between adoptions, various elements of cost (installation, materials) and total costs, how efficiency in design or installation may be introduced, and other innovations.

Project Scope

The project will consist of the following tasks:

1. **Identify Communities:** In the original study 10 communities were selected based on geography, availability of data, type of system, potential for eminent or recent enactment of ordinances, and other factors. In this study the same 10 communities, and builders will be asked to participate, and an additional 5 communities for a total of 15 communities.
2. **Cost Analysis:** A detailed cost analysis of sprinkler installation using local labor and materials rates will be prepared for three new single-family homes in each community. The same cost methodology developed in the 2008 study will be used.
3. **Market Analysis:** The cost data for the 45 homes/15 communities will be summarized, along with an analysis of some changes relative to the 2008 study collected during the course of the study and interaction with the communities.
4. **Final Report:** A final report will be prepared including not only the cost data from Task 3, but also key issues that impact the cost and cost savings to communities will be explored in more detail. The report will also include any recommendations discovered during the course of the study. A 1-page fact sheet summarizing the study will also be developed, for an intended audience of building code officials, builders, contractors, and other industry stakeholders.

Timetable: A final report will be delivered no later than September 30, 2013.

Project Contractor: Newport Partners, LLC