

## Home Structure Fire Loss in the U.S. and Fire Sprinkler Impact

### The U.S. Fire Problem

Fire in the home poses one of the biggest threats to the people of your community. U.S. fire departments responded to an average of **371,700 home structure fires** per year during the five-year-period of 2006-2010. About **350,000 of the fires occurred in homes without automatic extinguishing equipment**. These fires caused an estimated average of 2,600 civilian deaths, 12,900 civilian injuries, \$7.2 billion in direct property damage, and 25,600 firefighter injuries at the fireground per year.

Those at greatest risk are:

- Older adults – over age 65
- Children – under 5 years old
- Persons with disabilities

### Fire Sprinklers Reduce Loss

Extensive research has revealed that fire sprinklers save lives, protect property, and benefit the environment. Home fire sprinklers can also offset the increased dangers posed by homes built with lightweight construction and create a safer fire environment for occupants and firefighters.

### Fire Deaths and Property Loss

- Sprinklers reduce civilian fire deaths by **83%**.
- Sprinklers reduce direct property damage per fire by **69%**.

### Fire Sprinklers Reduce Injury Cost

While there has long been data correlating sprinklers with reductions in deaths and property loss, recent research also shows a significant impact on injury cost when sprinklers are present.

- Sprinklers reduce civilian fire injury **medical costs by 53%**,
- Sprinklers reduce civilian fire injury **total costs by 41%**.
- Sprinklers are responsible for an estimated **65% reduction in firefighter fireground injuries**.

### Fire Sprinklers Reduce the Cost of Loss

If all homes had been sprinklered when the fire occurred it would have resulted in:

- civilian fire death cost reduction of **\$10.4 billion** per year (statistical life value \$5 million)
- civilian fire injury medical costs reduction of **\$0.2 billion** per year
- civilian fire injury total cost reduction of **\$0.7 billion** per year
- direct property damage reduction of **\$4.8 billion** per year



*The Fire Sprinkler Initiative®*, a project of the National Fire Protection Association, is a nationwide effort to require the use of home fire sprinklers for new construction. Visit the Fire Sprinkler Initiative website for more information - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org>

*\*Data referenced from NFPA and other sources*