

Mastering the 10-Minute Mini-Lesson

SAMPLE
LESSON
PLAN

Topic: Home Fire Sprinklers

Audience: Adults

Lesson Objective: By the end of the lesson, attendees will appreciate the role of home fire sprinklers in reducing injury, death, and loss from fire.

Step 1: Introduction (3–4 Minutes)

- Greet the participants and thank them for allowing you to speak for 10 minutes. Let them know you are happy to be there.
- Introduce yourself and share your connection to the community.
- **HOOK:** One by one, show the crowd the “Good Ol’ Days” images such as:
 - A baby riding in a vintage car seat
 - Airplane passengers smoking cigarettes
 - Hockey players on the ice without helmets



- Ask attendees for their reactions to the pictures. You will likely hear responses ranging from nostalgia to amazement to horror. Ask attendees if they think current practices are better now than the ones represented in the images. Draw out some of the responses that focus on health and safety.
- Discuss how it is easy to look back at photos and think, “What were we thinking?!” Remind attendees that safety practices were based on the information people had access to at the time. Confirm that science and technology have brought many advances related to safety since the 1970’s. Fortunately for us, many advances have been made in home fire safety. For example, the invention of home smoke alarms was a critical life-saving advancement and many of us couldn’t imagine not having smoke alarms in our homes.
- Let the attendees know that you want to talk with them about another important fire safety advancement: **Home Fire Sprinklers.**

Educational Messages to Review:

- 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.

Mastering the 10-Minute Mini-Lesson: Home Fire Sprinklers

Step 2: Body of the Lesson (5–6 minutes)

- **Ask:** If new technology that greatly reduced injury, death, and property loss from home fires became available, would you want to know more?
- Share basic information about home fire sprinklers with attendees:
- Home fire sprinklers save lives:
 - Home fire sprinklers activate when there is a fire. They react quickly and spray water on fire.
 - The quick reaction time helps to keep fire small.
Ask: How long do people have to escape a home fire? *People may have only 1–2 minutes to escape once a smoke alarm sounds.*
 - Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. They reduce heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire. This gives people more time to escape. This extra time can be critical.
- Home fire sprinklers save property:
 - Some people are worried about water damage from sprinklers. In reality, sprinklers can reduce the damage to a home that would occur if a large fire broke out.
 - 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.
Ask: Which do you think would cause more damage to a home — Water from sprinklers or water used by fire department hoses? *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.*
 - It is common for people to worry about malfunctioning sprinklers but accidental sprinkler discharges are rare.

Step 3: Conclusion (1–2 minutes)

- Let attendees know that you believe home fire sprinklers will quickly become a more common fire safety option for families. Tell them you are looking forward to a time when we look back at 2016 and say, “Wow, I can’t believe most people didn’t have home fire sprinklers! What were they thinking?!”
- Thank them for allowing you to speak.
- Let attendees know you have much more information you can share about home fire sprinklers and other fire safety topics. Share your contact information and invite them to reach out to learn more.

Go to FireSprinklerInitiative.org or HomeFireSprinkler.org for more information about education and advocacy related to home fire sprinklers.

