



PH. (843) 918-1192

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City of Myrtle Beach
SOUTH CAROLINA
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Residential Sprinkler Systems

“It’s not about the facts, it’s about relationships” State Sen. Phil Leventis

The home builders in this country are “dead-set” against residential fire sprinkler systems. They say that mandating the installation of residential fire sprinklers is going to cripple an already struggling housing market. They are also spreading numerous un-truths about what will be required when installing a residential system, such as back flow preventers, water tanks, fire alarms, fire pumps, etc..... What they will not say is that there are many trade-offs when it comes to installing these systems. Not to mention the fact that most developments today require that lawn sprinklers be installed at a cost greater than most fire sprinkler systems. It is our duty as firefighters to inform the general public that **“Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives”**. If we take the time to explain the facts about the benefits of installing residential fire sprinkler systems we will build relationships.

Three E’s – **E**ducation/**E**arly Warning/**E**arly Suppression

Three leading causes of fire – **M**en/**W**oman/**C**hildren

65% of businesses devastated by fire do not re-open

Talking points -

- Lower flow requirements than commercial heads
 - **Low-flow heads** are designed to operate at 6 to 10 gpm, dependent upon design spacing. We must dispel the myth that residential sprinkler heads are going to cause enormous amounts of water damage. What most folks don’t realize is that residential sprinkler heads will help to minimize water damage. Think about a low flow head -vs- a 100gpm nozzle.
- Fast response heads (NFPA 13d)
 - Statistics have shown that most residential fires are 1 to 2 head events, thus preventing property damage and increasing survivability.
- Average installation cost \$1.61 square foot (Google the NFPA \$1.61 Rpt. / Scottsdale Rpt.)
 - The City of Myrtle Beach currently has an **entire neighborhood** being constructed with homes outfitted with residential fire sprinklers. The cost of installing these systems by a local contractor, less than \$2.00 a square foot.



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Tools in the Tool-box / Trade Offs

- Fewer fire hydrants
- Smaller water mains
- Side yard set-backs / greater density
- Narrower streets
- Cheaper fire insurance
- **Fewer residential fire deaths**