

# Setting the Record Straight on Residential Fire Protection

single-family/multi-family homes, townhomes, apartments & condominiums

Common myths we hear from customers  
and facts from the experts at USAFP:



## MYTH

“When a fire starts, every  
sprinkler activates.”

“Water damage from  
a sprinkler system will  
be more extensive than  
damage caused by a fire.”

“A smoke detector is  
enough to protect my  
property.”



## FACT

No amount of smoke will activate a fire sprinkler. **Every sprinkler head is individually activated**, and only engages when it detects temperatures over 155 degrees Fahrenheit. Most fires can be controlled by one or two sprinkler heads, saving your property from fire and water damage.

The water damage caused by fire sprinklers is far less severe than the damage caused by fire hoses or the fire and smoke damage caused by uncontrolled flames. **Sprinklers are more effective at controlling fires, releasing only 13 to 20 gallons of water per minute compared to fire hoses, which release up to 150 gallons per minute.** Plus, fires that are not quickly extinguished by the fire department may result in extensive property damage, if not the complete destruction of the home or building.

Smoke detectors are an essential component of fire protection, but they are not enough to protect you or your home. **Smoke detectors alert occupants of a fire, but they do not extinguish flames, which can cause extensive property damage or loss of life.** Often, battery operated smoke detectors fail because their batteries are dead or have been removed. Also, an activated smoke detector will not engage a fire sprinkler system; the two are not interconnected.



**USA**  
**FIRE PROTECTION**

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## MYTH

“Sprinkler systems will leak  
or accidentally go off.”

“Newer homes are safer  
than older homes, so  
a sprinkler system is  
not necessary.”

“Fire sprinklers will make  
homeowners insurance  
premiums go up.”



## FACT

Fire sprinkler systems are far less likely to leak than an ordinary home's plumbing system. In fact, plumbing systems leak or rupture 1000x more often than a fire sprinkler system does. **Only 1 in 16 million sprinklers are defective and accidentally discharge in the home.** The chance of a home's fire sprinkler system leaking or accidentally discharging is far too minimal to outweigh the guaranteed life safety it offers a family, home or building.

New construction techniques, like vented soffits and webbed trusses, along with the increased use of synthetic composite materials found in newer homes makes them more susceptible to serious fire damage. Materials in new homes burn quicker than the traditional materials found in old homes. Therefore, **a sprinkler system is just as essential, if not more so, in newer homes than older homes.**

Most insurance companies offer their customers a discount on their premiums following the installation of a fire sprinkler system. **On average, homeowners can see a 5 to 10% discount on their premiums.**