

# DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

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### Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

Fire kills more people in the United States annually than all natural disasters combined. In fact, more than 4,000 people perish in fires each year, an ironically, most fire deaths occur in the very place where we feel the safest--our own homes. Home fires often happen at night when people are sleeping. In ONLY three minutes, a room can be engulfed in flames before anyone awakens. Those at highest risk are the very young and older adults.

Smoke alarms are essential in every household. They are designed to detect, not control a fire. Installing residential sprinklers will provide added protection to complement the smoke alarms, providing a means to fight flames immediately. The sprinklers (head) activate at a temperature of only 155 degrees within three minutes providing immediate containment / control of the flames, to the point of extinguishment before the fire department arrives.

Not only do home sprinklers dramatically reduce the risk of home fire deaths, they also decrease fire damage by as much as two-thirds when compared to homes without sprinklers. Back in 1986, the City of Scottsdale, AZ. required sprinklers to be installed in all new homes. Since that time, there have been no deaths in sprinklered homes, while 13 people died in homes without sprinklers.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) conducted a survey to find out what the costs were to install residential sprinklers throughout the United States. They chose twenty communities around the country, from the East Coast to the West Coast. The average cost to install sprinklers was \$1.63 per square foot of coverage.

Currently, in the DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT, the costs to install residential sprinklers are 0.87 to .93 cents per square foot utilizing the standard sprinkler head. (Suspends below the ceiling approximately 1 3/8 inches). The concealed or recessed sprinkler head is approximately \$1.00 per square foot installed and the only thing you see is a three-inch diameter cover-plate at the ceiling.

DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT will be giving the general public an opportunity to actually watch a fire in progress in the very near future. We will intentionally burn two real side-by-side fire demonstration units. One unit will have one sprinkler head and the other without any fire protection. You will be able to see firsthand how quickly fire progresses, in a manner of minutes. Once the fire is out, the firefighters will remove the furniture out of each unit and the public will have an opportunity to examine them and the units up close.