

## DO'S AND DONT'S FOR YOUR HOME FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM

### Do:

- ◆ Test your system monthly. (If your system is monitored by an alarm company, be sure to notify them before testing the system. This will prevent sending a false alarm.) Open the test valve and listen for the alarm bell. Once the alarm sounds, turn off the valve. If the alarm bell does not sound, contact a licensed fire sprinkler contractor.
- ◆ Know the location of the system shutoff valve. Be sure all other adult occupants are aware of its location.
- ◆ Make certain the system control valve is open at all times.
- ◆ Have your system extended if your home is enlarged or remodeled. Contact a licensed fire protection system contractor. Submit plans to the local fire department as required.
- ◆ Contact the fire department when any activation occurs, even if the fire has apparently been extinguished.

### Don't:

- ◆ Don't paint the sprinklers.
- ◆ Don't damage the sprinklers.
- ◆ Don't hang objects from the sprinklers.
- ◆ Don't obstruct the sprinklers.
- ◆ Don't cover the sprinklers.
- ◆ Don't remove the sprinklers.
- ◆ Don't turn off or disconnect the system.
- ◆ Don't shut of the system in the event of a fire.

In the event of a fire, be calm and leave your home immediately. Call the fire department from a neighbor's home or cell phone.

**For additional information about home fire sprinkler systems in Lake Jackson please contact:**



Randy Crim, Fire Marshal  
Lake Jackson Fire Marshal's Office  
10 Oak Drive  
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566-5289

Phone: (979) 415-2726  
Fax: (979) 415-2679  
Email: rcrim@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us

**For information about home fire sprinklers please visit:**



**Home Fire Sprinkler  
COALITION**  
Improved Fire Protection Through Public Education

[www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)



The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry

[www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org)



**American Fire  
Sprinkler Association**

[www.firesprinkler.org](http://www.firesprinkler.org)

## Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

The National Fire Protection Association reports annual fire death and injury statistics from home fires in the United States since 1977.



Children under 5 and adults 65 and older are at greatest risk!

A civilian fire injury occurs every 30 minutes!

A civilian fire death occurs every 135 minutes!

**SMOKING**  
is the leading cause of home fire deaths!

**COOKING**  
is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries!

**Can You LIVE Without Them?**  
[www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)



### **Myth "They cause water damage."**

**Fact:** In less time than it typically takes the fire department to arrive on the scene, quick response sprinklers release 13-24 gallons of water per minute as compared to 125± gallons per minute by the fire department hose streams.

### **Myth "If one sprinkler goes off, they all will."**

**Fact:** Only the sprinkler directly affected by the fire will operate, other sprinklers in the system will not go off. Sprinklers in each room react to temperatures individually (usually 165° F).

### **Myth "The sprinklers may go off by accident."**

**Fact:** It is extremely rare for sprinklers to operate accidentally. Sprinkler systems are specifically designed and its components are rigorously tested to minimize such accidents.

### **Myth "Sprinkler systems are ugly."**

**Fact:** Today's home fire sprinklers are inconspicuous and are designed to blend into your room décor. In ceilings sprinklers can be completely concealed beneath color-matched plates.

### **Myth "What about the sprinkler system freezing?"**

**Fact:** Like a plumbing system, sprinkler piping is usually installed on inside walls, eliminating their exposure to freezing temperatures. In cold climates, fire sprinkler piping should be insulated.

### **Myth "A smoke alarm is enough protection."**

**Fact:** Smoke alarms detect a fire and signal a warning. Battery operated smoke alarms will fail to function when the batteries are dead or have been removed. Sprinklers and smoke alarms together cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 82%, relative to having neither.

### **Myth "I can't afford a sprinkler system."**

**Fact:** A sprinkler system can be installed in your new home for as little as 1 - 1½ % of the total construction cost; retrofitted systems are more expensive but easy to install. Homeowner's insurance discounts can be as much as 5% to 30% annually.