

Fact

Annually, there are an average of 9,084 structure fires in Ontario, including some 87 deaths, 762 injuries and almost \$386 million in property damage. This makes fire deadlier than all natural disasters combined.

Call to Action

If you have bought a new home with an unfinished basement - drywall it.

If you are thinking of buying a new home - insist that automatic sprinklers are installed.

Send a letter or an email to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services to ask that the Ontario Fire Code be amended and that residential automatic fire sprinklers be mandated in all new homes.

Benefits of Automatic Fire Sprinklers

- Saves Lives
- Heat from the fire will activate the sprinkler in less than 2 minutes and will suppress the fire before it engulfs the room and spreads
- Decreases fire damage by as much as two-thirds when compared to homes without sprinklers
- Significantly reduces water damage as a sprinkler controls a fire with only a small fraction of the water used by fire hoses

Resources

1. Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association
<http://www.casa-firesprinkler.org>
2. Fire SAFE Ontario
<http://www.firesafeontario.com>
3. Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition
<http://www.homefiresprinkler.org/FS/FSBrochures.html>
4. Home Fire Timeline Video
<http://www.homefiresprinklers.org/Consumer/ConsTimeline.html>
5. Stop the Fire
<http://www.stopthefire.org/resources>

Residential Automatic Fire Sprinklers Protect What You Value Most



The Ontario Association
of Fire Chiefs



5 Important Fire Issues and their Solutions

Issue 1

North America has one of the worst per capita fire death rates in the industrialized world. The large majority of fire deaths and injuries occur in residential fires. Homes account for approximately 80% of all fire deaths.

Solution

A combination of smoke alarms and automatic fire sprinklers can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 82%.

Issue 2

Fatal residential fires most often occur between the hours of midnight and 6:00 am. Children and the elderly are more at risk. When sleeping, children and the elderly are slower to react to smoke alarms and may not be able to escape in the few minutes before the fire spreads and they are overcome by smoke.

Solution

Automatic fire sprinklers control fires and limit smoke development. Most people who die in fires don't die from burns; they die from the smoke and toxic fumes.

Issue 3

Adults in the age group between 65 and 75 have a fire death rate twice that of the national average. Many elderly people have restricted mobility that may be accompanied by cognitive impairments, conditions that can limit their ability to quickly escape if a fire should occur.

Solution

Automatic fire sprinklers can buy critical time to get family members out and will slow one of the greatest fire hazards - toxic air. Between 1995 and 2004 one hundred and nineteen (119) children died in home fires in Ontario.

Issue 4

Annually, the damage to property in Ontario due to fire is approximately \$386 million.

Solution

Damage per fire is lower by 40-70% in properties equipped with automatic fire sprinklers. The use of automatic fire sprinklers reduces water usage between 50% and 91%.

Issue 5

A residential home can be engulfed by flames in less time than it would take most fire departments to arrive on the scene. Fires in homes with lots of modern home furnishings and fabrics, unfinished basements and lightweight construction, can spread at a very rapid rate. New construction materials are stronger and use less of our natural resources but they burn faster than materials of the past, making escape more difficult than ever before.

Solution

Residential automatic fire sprinklers complement the smoke alarm's work, providing a way to fight flames immediately. Heat from the fire will activate the sprinkler closest to the fire in less than 2 minutes. In most cases the activation of a single sprinkler head is enough to control the fire, preventing its spread and preventing the production of lethal smoke.

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFCh) supports changes to the Ontario Building Code to require that all new residential dwellings require the installation of residential fire sprinklers.