

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is known as the "silent killer."

There should be at least one CO detector near each sleeping area of the home.

Change the CO detector battery at least once a year. Try to find CO detectors that have a sealed, multi-year battery.

CO detectors typically need to be replaced every 7-10 years (refer to the manufacturer's information for more detail on replacement schedules).



Unfortunately, there are several special interest groups that oppose minimum levels of safety such as home fire sprinkler systems. One of the biggest problems is the public does not receive factual information on these life safety systems. Here are resources where you can get factual information:

www.homefiresprinkler.org

www.firesprinklerinitiative.org

www.firesprinklerassoc.org

www.urbandale.org

When in doubt, contact the people who have firsthand experience about the effectiveness and value of fire protection systems—your fire department!



3927 121st St.
Urbandale, IA 50323
Phone: (515) 278-3970
Email: fire@urbandale.org
www.urbandale.org

www.facebook.com/urbandalefiredepartment



Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, and Home fire sprinklers. Saving Lives and Property Everyday!!



Smoke detectors are an important early notification device in your home to alert you to a fire! Many fire deaths in homes occur where there were either no smoke detectors present or the detectors did not work. Home fire sprinklers in conjunction with smoke detectors give you the best chance of surviving a fire as well as minimizing the devastating effects of fire.

Smoke Detectors

You need to have at least one smoke detector on every floor of your home (including the basement).

Smoke detectors should be dual sensor technology (ionization & photoelectric sensors).

Batteries need to be replaced at least once a year. Try to find replacement detectors that come with a 10-year sealed battery.

Test your detectors monthly and be sure to vacuum around them at least monthly to reduce the chance of nuisance alarms.

Do not install smoke detectors in kitchens.

Make sure everyone in the home reviews and practices your fire escape plan at least twice a year.



Home Fire Sprinklers

The National Building and Residential Codes have required fire sprinklers in homes as a minimum requirement since 2009. However, most communities have chosen to remove this minimum level of protection from new homes. Data from communities across the U.S. have shown home fire sprinklers are effective, affordable, and save lives.

MYTH: Requiring fire sprinklers makes housing "unaffordable."

FACT: A recent study conducted by the Fire Protection Research Foundation showed the average cost for a fire sprinkler system in a new home is \$1.35/square foot.* Fire sprinkler opponents have never been able to provide data or research to show how home fire sprinklers caused a negative economic impact in a community that has fire sprinklers as a minimum safety provision in new homes.

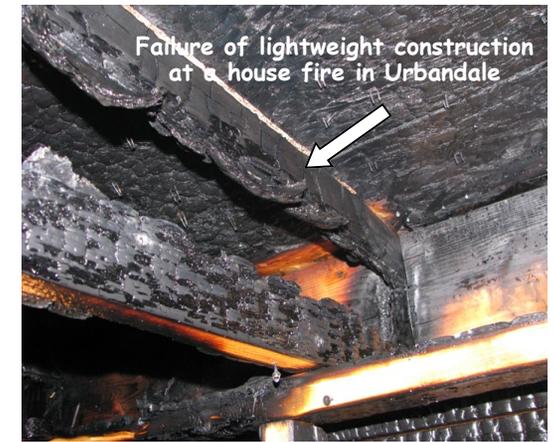
MYTH: Sprinklers go off accidentally, causing unnecessary water damage.

FACT: Accidental sprinkler discharge is extremely rare. Things like burnt toast and cigarette smoke will not trigger sprinkler operation. Each sprinkler works independently and only in response to the heat of the fire. Studies have shown that over 90% of the time a fire is controlled or extinguished with no more than 2 sprinkler heads activating.

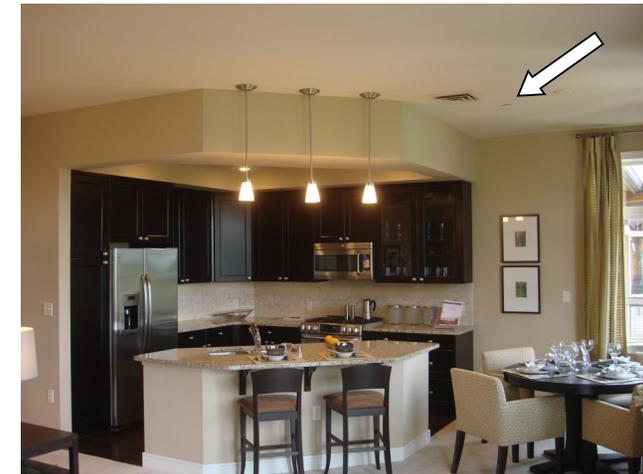
MYTH: A smoke alarm provides enough protection in the home.

FACT: If operational, smoke alarms may alert occupants to the presence of danger, but they do nothing to extinguish or control the fire.

* A copy of this report can be obtained from UFD or downloaded from www.homefiresprinkler.org



Testing conducted by Underwriters Laboratories shows that structural materials used to build homes today are prone to collapse sooner when exposed to fire. In addition, homes today are primarily furnished with items made from plastic and synthetic materials which burn faster and release more heat and toxic smoke than furnishings made from natural fibers, significantly reducing the time someone has to escape a fire.



See the sprinkler head? Most sprinkler heads in homes are concealed giving them a very low profile. A smoke detector has a larger profile than a fire sprinkler head.