



## **Identification of America's Fire Problem Statistics related to injury/property death/damage**

### **Residential Fire Sprinklers and America's Fire Deaths:**

#### **Occurrence and Consequences<sup>1</sup>**

- On average in the United States in 2005, someone died in a fire about every 2 hours (143 minutes), and someone was injured every 29 minutes (Karter 2006).
- Four out of five U.S. fire deaths in 2005 occurred in homes (Karter 2006).
- In 2005, fire departments responded to 396,000 home fires in the United States, which claimed the lives of 3,030 people (not including firefighters) and injured another 13,825, not including firefighters (Karter 2006).
- In 2005, 115 firefighters were killed in the line of duty. (National Fallen Firefighters Foundation).
- Most victims of fires die from smoke or toxic gases and not from burns (Hall 2001).
- Smoking is the leading cause of fire-related deaths (Ahrens 2003).
- Cooking is the primary cause of residential fires (Ahrens 2003).

#### **Costs**

- In 2005, residential fires caused nearly \$7 billion in property damage (Karter 2006).
- Fire and burn injuries represent 1% of the incidence of injuries and 2% of the total costs of injuries, or \$7.5 billion each year (Finkelstein et al. 2006).
- Males account for \$4.8 billion (64%) of the total costs of fire/burn injuries.
- Females account for \$2.7 billion (36%) of the total costs of fire/burn injuries.
- Fatal fire and burn injuries cost \$3 billion, representing 2% of the total costs of all fatal injuries.
- Hospitalized fire and burn injuries total \$1 billion, or 1% of the total cost of all hospitalized injuries.
- Non-hospitalized fire and burn injuries cost \$3 billion, or 2% of the total cost of all non-hospitalized injuries.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: *Center for Disease Control Fire Deaths and Injury Fact Sheet*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/fire.htm>

## What is the history of the fire sprinklers?

### Sprinkler Systems in Industry<sup>2</sup>

Schools, office buildings, factories, and other commercial buildings have benefited from fire protection sprinkler systems for over a century. To prevent investments in buildings and machinery, the textile mills in New England began using sprinkler systems over 100 years ago following a series of devastating fires which claimed many lives and destroyed entire businesses.

### Sprinklers in Homes

What about our homes? Although we protect our businesses from fire, what actions do we take to protect our families, our homes, and our possessions from fire? Millions of Americans have installed smoke alarms in their homes in the past few years, but a smoke alarm can only alert the occupants to a fire in the house ... it cannot contain or extinguish a fire. Residential sprinkler systems can! In order to provide the best protection, we need smoke alarms, escape plans and residential fire sprinklers.

### Sprinklers—The Solution

Fires in residences have taken a high toll of life and property. In 2005 there were<sup>3</sup>:

- 396,000 residential fires
- 3,055 civilian fire deaths
- 13,825 civilian fire injuries
- \$6.9 billion in property damage

*To learn more, visit:*

U.S Fire Administration	<a href="http://www.usfa.dhs.gov">www.usfa.dhs.gov</a>
Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition	<a href="http://www.homefiresprinkler.org">www.homefiresprinkler.org</a>
Home Safety Council	<a href="http://www.homesafetycouncil.org">www.homesafetycouncil.org</a>
Fire Team USA	<a href="http://www.fireteamusa.com">www.fireteamusa.com</a>
National Fire Sprinkler Association	<a href="http://www.nfsa.org">www.nfsa.org</a>
IRC Sprinkler Coalition	<a href="http://www.ircfiresprinkler.org">www.ircfiresprinkler.org</a>
The Phoenix Society	<a href="http://www.phoenix-society.org">www.phoenix-society.org</a>

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<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Fire Administration [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all\\_citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/sprinklers/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/sprinklers/)

<sup>3</sup> Source: National Fire Protection Association *Fire Loss in the U.S. During 2005 Abridged Report*