



Interior safety

Residential sprinkler systems

A fire occurs in 1 out of 10 American homes every year. In wildland areas, the fire from the home may spread into the wildland. Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems are a great asset to homeowners in the Urban Wildland Interface.

Homes in wildland areas usually have a longer fire department response time. In a home with residential sprinklers installed, the fire will be controlled and often extinguished before fire crews arrive. A sprinkler system will reduce the heat and smoke that is generated during a fire, thus allowing a safer environment in which to escape.

A sprinkler system can be designed for any type of water supply. Many homes that are built in wildland areas do not have a domestic water supply available. Water supply for homes usually come from a well. A water tank can be installed to supply the sprinkler system.

Smoke Detectors

Lives can be saved when smoke detectors are properly installed and maintained. Most areas require smoke detector installation for new structures.

Choice of Detectors

- There are several types of smoke detectors available. Some run on batteries, some run on household current and others get their main power source from the household current with a battery back up in the event of a power failure.

- There are several ways smoke detectors detect smoke. Some use an “ionization” sensor which detects slow smoldering fires, some use a “photoelectric” sensor which detects flame and others use a combination of the two.

How Many?

- Minimum protection requires a smoke detector outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Be sure everyone sleeping in your home can hear your smoke detector alarms with bedroom doors closed.



- Smoke detectors are not recommended for kitchens, bathrooms, or garages where cooking fumes, steam, or exhaust could set off false alarms, or for attic and unheated spaces, where humidity and temperature changes might affect a detector’s operation.

Where to Install

Because smoke rises, mount detectors high on a wall or on the ceiling. Wall mounted units should be mounted 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling. Ceiling mounted units should be mounted at least 4 inches from the nearest wall.

Maintenance

- Test your smoke detectors weekly and replace the batteries twice a year (when you set your clock forward and back, change your batteries). Many battery powered smoke detectors “chirp” or give some type of audible signal when their battery power is low.
- Clean your smoke detectors at least once a year. Dust and cobwebs can reduce a detector’s sensitivity to smoke. The life expectancy for any type of smoke detector is about 10 years. If you have smoke detectors that are older than 10 years, they need to be replaced.

Portable Fire Extinguishers

Portable fire extinguishers are your best defense against a small fire. Fire extinguishers for home use are not intended to fight large or spreading fires.

Choosing a Fire extinguisher

All fire extinguishers are labeled using standard symbols for the class of fires they can put out. A red slash through any of the symbols tells you the extinguisher cannot be used on that class of fire.

Class A:

- Ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber and many plastics.



Class B:

- Flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, grease, tar, oil based lacquer, and flammable gas.



Class C:

- Energized electrical equipment including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery, and appliances.



Extinguisher Size

Portable extinguishers are also rated for the size of fire they can handle. Normally, an extin-

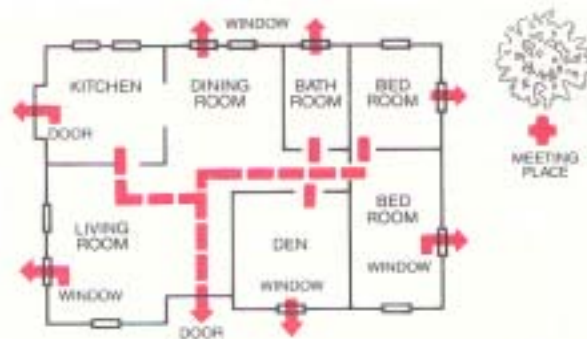
guisher that has a minimum rating of 2A-10B:C is recommended for each floor level. The larger the number, the larger the fire that the extinguisher can put out. Higher-rated models are often heavier. Make sure you can hold and operate the extinguisher before you buy.

Installation/Maintenance

- Extinguishers should be installed in plain view, above the reach of small children, near an escape route and away from stoves and heating appliances.
- Extinguishers require routine care. Read your operator’s manual and ask your dealer how your extinguisher should be inspected and serviced.
- Rechargeable models must be serviced after every use. (Service companies are listed in the Yellow Pages under “Fire Extinguishers.”) Disposable fire extinguishers can only be used once and must be replaced after use.

Plan Your Escape!

Smoke alarms can cut your risk of dying in a home fire nearly in half, but you have to know what to do when they go off.



Make a plan

- Draw a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out (including windows) of every room, and decide on the best escape routes.
- Pick an outside meeting place (preferably in front of your home), and tell everyone to meet there after they’ve escaped, so you can count heads and tell firefighters if anybody’s trapped inside.

Practice Your Plan

- ❑ Every household should have a fire escape plan, but practice is essential; there's no time to lose in a fire emergency.
- ❑ Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. Make your exit drills realistic. Pretend that some exits are blocked by smoke or fire and practice using alternative escape routes.

Test Doors before Opening Them

Kneel or crouch and touch the door with the back of your hand. If the door is warm, use another escape route. If it's completely cool, put your shoulder against the door and open it slowly. Be prepared to slam it shut if there's smoke or flame on the other side.

Crawl Low under Smoke

Heat rises carrying smoke with it, so air will be cooler and cleaner near the floor during a fire. If you run into smoke, try another escape route. If you must exit through the smoke, crawl on your hands and knees and keep your head close to the floor.



Stop Drop and Roll

If your clothes catch on fire “**Stop Drop and Roll,**” making sure you cover your face.



Get Out and Stay Out

React immediately! Do not try to rescue possessions or pets and never go back inside a burning building. Call the fire department from a neighbor's phone, a portable phone, or call box after you've escaped. When reporting the fire make sure you give your address, name, closest cross street, and directions if you live in a difficult area to find.

Fire Prevention Checklist

Throughout The House

General Safety

- ❑ Keep doors, hallways, and stairs clear of obstructions.
- ❑ Post emergency numbers near the telephone.
- ❑ Do not smoke in bed.
- ❑ Do not put ashtrays on chairs or sofa arms.
- ❑ Do not leave unattended cigarettes burning in ashtrays.



Electrical Safety

- ❑ Get rid of frayed or cracked electrical cords.
- ❑ Do not place electrical cords under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.
- ❑ Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.
- ❑ Do not place electrical cords near sinks, bathtubs, or ranges.
- ❑ Make sure all fuses in the fuse box are the correct size.
- ❑ Make sure all outlets have cover plates and no exposed wiring.



Safety from Alternate Heat Sources

- ❑ Plug heaters directly into the wall socket and unplug when not in use. Do not use extension cords with portable heaters.
- ❑ Do not place heaters where they can be knocked over.
- ❑ Keep flammable materials (such as furniture, clothes, curtains or towels) at least 3 feet from space heaters or stoves.
- ❑ Do not store flammable liquids near ignition sources (heaters, furnaces, hot water heaters or stoves).
- ❑ Clean chimneys yearly.
- ❑ Do not leave heaters unattended or sleep while they are on.
- ❑ Do not use heaters to dry clothes.



Kitchen Safety

- ❑ Do not leave food unattended on the stove. If you must leave the kitchen, take a utensil along with you as a reminder.
- ❑ Do not cook while wearing sleeves that can dangle near burners.
- ❑ Do not let grease build up on your stove or oven.
- ❑ Do not let crumbs build up in your toaster.
- ❑ Do not let curtains hang near your range.
- ❑ Check the kitchen before you go to bed.
- ❑ Turn the oven off.

