

Site Map **Fire Sprinklers for Life Safety**



[Home](#) [Site Map](#)

FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES THEY COULD SAVE YOURS
<<MAJOR NON-EVENT>> SPRINKLER SYSTEM PUTS OUT FIRE..... NO ONE
HURT.

- [Up](#)
- [General Info](#)
- [Background](#)
- [Myths](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Benefits](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Legislation](#)

Life Safety Fire Sprinklers

When fire sprinklers were first invented 140 years ago the Insurance Industry was quick to recognise the benefits of a fire sprinkler system and they encouraged the development of the emergent Industry - and still do to this day. However their interest was in property protection so the life safety aspect of fire sprinklers was ignored - until recently.

In 1973 the *America Burning* report was published in the USA. It identified the fact that over 75% of all fire casualties occurred in the home and amongst other things it recommended the development of a residential fire sprinkler system.

All fires start small but they grow very rapidly. If a fire can be detected soon enough, and fought immediately, it will take surprisingly little water to control it. But if it is allowed to grow unhindered conditions in the room of origin will become unsurvivable within 2 minutes. The key to controlling a fire is quick reactions.

Normally without sprinklers the first you might know about a fire is when a smoke alarm goes off, or someone spots the fire. A call has to be made to the Fire Brigade, who can usually get to you within 15 minutes or less. When they arrive it then takes a couple of minutes to set up their equipment and so the fire may have had some 20 minutes from the initial alarm to really get a hold. What was a small fire has become a major one.

With a **LIFE SAFETY** sprinkler system, if any of the sprinkler heads detects a fire, it immediately starts to spray water on the fire and an alarm is sounded to warn occupants to escape. **LIFE SAFETY** sprinkler systems usually put out the fire, but should this not happen the system will control the fire slowing its growth and reducing toxic fumes. So the

happen the system will control the fire, slowing its growth and reducing toxic fumes. So the Fire Brigade will have a much simpler task when they arrive and very much less damage will have been caused. Most importantly the occupants will have had time to escape or be rescued and the firemen will not have to risk their lives.

A **LIFE SAFETY** sprinkler system is designed to use just enough water to control the fire. Typically a **LIFE SAFETY** sprinkler head discharges 40-45 litres of water a minute compared to a fireman's hose at perhaps 1,000+ litres a minute. This minimises water damage and turns a potential disaster into just an inconvenience.

[[Home](#)] [[General Info](#)] [[Background](#)] [[Myths](#)] [[FAQs](#)] [[Benefits](#)] [[Statistics](#)] [[Legislation](#)]

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