

**RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS -  
AN ESSENTIAL PART OF YOUR PPE**



# The Life **YOU SAVE** could be **YOUR OWN**



**In the past 30 years, more than 100,000 people, including many firefighters, have been killed by fires in unsprinklered homes. IT'S TIME to end this needless loss of life.**

In September 2008, a national hearing will take place in Minneapolis, MN to decide whether building codes should require ALL new homes to have fire sprinklers. For the code to change, we need YOUR help.

#### **Here's What YOU Can Do:**

- 1) Get your department signed up to vote at the hearing. Learn how: [www.IRCFireSprinkler.org](http://www.IRCFireSprinkler.org).
- 2) Become one of your department's designated International Code Council voting representatives.
- 3) Attend the hearing in Minnesota to cast your vote for residential sprinklers.

The hearing will be held September 20-22 in Minneapolis. Get this meeting on your schedule and into your budget NOW! Travel assistance funding will be available to those who would otherwise not be able to attend. Request funding at [www.IRCFireSprinkler.org](http://www.IRCFireSprinkler.org).

#### **Want to know more?**

Contact the IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition at (202) 470-6447  
Email: [admin@IRCFireSprinkler.org](mailto:admin@IRCFireSprinkler.org)  
Web: [www.IRCFireSprinkler.org](http://www.IRCFireSprinkler.org)

## **THE FACTS**

- In 2006, 66% of fire deaths and more than 25% of firefighter on-duty deaths occurred in one- and two-family dwellings.<sup>1</sup>
- The available time to escape a flaming fire in a home has been significantly reduced, from an average of 17 minutes in 1975 to as few as 3 minutes in 2003.<sup>2</sup> Modern furnishings burn fast, and smoke alarms may no longer warn in time for occupants to escape.
- Lightweight construction endangers occupants and firefighters. Sprinklers protect lightweight construction.
- When both fire sprinklers and smoke alarms are present in a home, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82%, when compared to a residence without either.<sup>3</sup>
- In almost 2,000 fire incidents in homes protected with fire sprinklers, NO fire related deaths were reported during the 2002-2005 reporting period.<sup>3</sup>

1. NFPA 2007 report on fire trends 2. NIST Technical Note 1455  
3. NIST Benefit-Cost studies

**This is the most important building code vote to impact firefighter and community safety in decades. Be a part of it!**