

# Courier News

**Date:** February 25, 2011 **Subject:** Fire sprinklers key to home safety **Circulation:** 27,004

## Fire sprinklers key to home safety

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As the recent fatal fire in Woodbridge demonstrates, installing smoke detectors and creating an emergency response plan are two very important steps to help citizens in the event of a fire. However, neither of these actions actively work to keep a fire contained or extinguish it, like fire sprinklers do. If fire sprinklers were present in the single-family home, the tragic death of a female resident may have been prevented and property damage may have been drastically reduced.

In many cases, properly installed and maintained fire sprinklers control and possibly even extinguish a fire before the fire department even arrives on the scene. More importantly, the presence of fire sprinklers could have mitigated the risk to individuals affected by the blaze, including firefighters who fought the fire.

According to the United States Fire Administration, winter fires result in an estimated average of 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries and \$1.7 billion in property loss nationally each year. In order to keep your loved ones safe, keep fireplaces and heaters clean and clear and use smoke detectors and fire sprinklers to help keep your family safe.



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Currently, there is pending legislation in New Jersey, bill A3278 in the Assembly and bill S2287 in the Senate, which would make it mandatory for all newly constructed one- and two-family homes as well as condominiums and townhomes to be equipped with fire sprinklers. If passed, this legislation would help to reduce the devastating effects of fires and help protect New Jersey residents in the places where they should feel safest — their homes. David Kurasz  
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