

The Star-Ledger

Date: January 28, 2011 **Subject:** Sprinklers can save lives **Circulation:** 223,037

Sprinklers can save lives

More fires occur during the winter months than any other time of year, and that is certainly the case in New Jersey. Since Jan. 4, five New Jersey residents have tragically lost their lives in four residential fires across the state. Installing smoke detectors and creating an emergency response plan are two very important steps that can be taken to help citizens in the event of a fire. However, neither of these actions actively works to keep a fire contained or to extinguish it like fire sprinklers do.

According to the United States Fire Administration, winter fires result in an average of 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries and \$1.7 billion in property loss nationally each year. 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, executive director, New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board

