

## **MAY: Week 3 – Building Safety/Fire Sprinklers**

**Overview:** To help raise awareness of building safety, the SFMO proudly celebrates Building Safety Month during May. Building Safety Month is a public safety awareness campaign to help individuals, families, and businesses understand what it takes to create safe, resilient, affordable, and energy-efficient homes and buildings.

When our building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings and review construction plans to ensure code compliance, they help to ensure the places where you live, learn, work, worship, and play are safe. They work closely with homebuilders, contractors, plumbers, roofers, and other construction industry trades to provide maximum public safety.

Homes and buildings that are built in compliance with building safety codes result in resilient structures that minimize the risks of death, injury, and property damage. Regardless of the department where code officials work — building, fire, planning, or elsewhere — they work hard every day to provide public safety by ensuring buildings are constructed safely. Resilient structures minimize risk of property damage, allowing property owners to pay lower insurance costs and saving millions of taxpayer dollars when rebuilding from natural disasters.

When you enter a house or other type of building, you assume it is safely and properly constructed, and that it complies with state and local building codes. Building codes address all aspects of construction, including structural integrity, fire prevention, plumbing, mechanical systems, and energy efficiency. Maintaining building safety requires the active participation of property owners, code officials, fire inspectors, architects, builders, engineers, contractors, and others in the construction industry.



One of the best ways to keep homes and buildings safe from fire is the use of fire sprinkler systems. Fire sprinkler systems react quickly in a fire dramatically reducing a fire's heat, flames, and smoke. Fire sprinklers can control, and may even extinguish, a fire in less time than it would take a fire department to arrive on the scene.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- International Code Council
  - <https://www.iccsafe.org/>
- “Who Needs Building Codes?” pamphlet
  - <https://codes.iccsafe.org/what-are-building-codes>
- Consumer safety tips for your home
  - <https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/building-safety-month/safety-toolkit/>
- ICC Media videos (YouTube)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/user/ICCMEDIA/videos>

- Fire and sprinkler side-by-side burn demo
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlx1SMmLylc>
- Fire Sprinkler Initiative, free downloads
  - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/advocacy-tools/free-downloads.aspx>
- NFPA safety tips – home fire sprinklers
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g73JQBff0vE>
- Free fire sprinkler education materials
  - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/free-fire-sprinkler-education-materials/>
- Fire sprinkler advocate takes on anti-sprinkler naysayer
  - <https://community.nfpa.org/community/home-fire-sprinkler-initiative/blog/2019/09/20/fire-sprinkler-advocate-takes-on-anti-sprinkler-naysayer>

**Media Tools:** Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote building safety and fire sprinklers:

- **Twitter**
  - Fire sprinklers save lives! Spread the word about #fastestwater @NFSAorg @TNCommercelnsur
  - Support residential fire sprinklers! @NFPA @TNCommercelnsur
  - Did you know the cost of residential fire sprinklers is about 1% of total construction cost? @NFPA @TNCommercelnsur
- **Share these images on Facebook:**





**Educator Tip:** A fire sprinkler side-by-side burn is an effective way to demonstrate to people the importance of residential sprinklers. Though they can be difficult and costly to build, any effort to publicize fire sprinklers is not wasted.

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition has a free toolkit on how to build a side-by-side demo trailer. For the full toolkit, go here: <https://homefiresprinkler.org/fire-sprinkler-demonstration-kit/>

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Smoke Alarms*

*General Tips*

**2.1.1** Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers can reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire, allowing people more time to escape.

*Installation*

**2.2.2** Home fire sprinklers work along with smoke alarms to save lives.