

## **It Won't Happen To Me**

Some people say "**It Won't Happen To Me**" and it may not. But let's look at some of the facts.

Every 2 seconds a fire occurs. Every 21 seconds someone is burned by a fire in a residence. Every 55 seconds a home will burn from the destructive force of fire.

In 1991 fires killed 4465 men, women and children and injured 29,372 people not including fire department personnel. 80% of these deaths and 72% of the injuries occurred in residential fires.

Are you willing to gamble with the lives of your family, your possessions and your memories?

In a fire, it isn't the flame that kills, it's the smoke. All smoke contains lethal carbon monoxide and other toxic gasses which spread faster than a raging fire. That is why escaping quickly in those first moments after a fire starts is so critical to survival. Smoke detectors have proven to be valuable as an early warning device; however, they are not designed to suppress a fire. They only identify that there is a problem. Too often, battery operated smoke detectors fail due to dead batteries or because they have not been checked.

Since the most effective way to control a fire is to put it out while it is still small, it makes good sense to install residential fire sprinklers. In a fully sprinklered residence, the heat-sensitive sprinklers can respond to a flaming fire in as little as 35 seconds and extinguish or control a fire immediately after activation. The sprinklers thus keep temperatures and carbon monoxide levels down and keep fire and water damage to a minimum. Most residential sprinklers release 10 to 15 gallons of water per minute compared to 125 gallons per minute from a fire hose. An uncontrolled fire does considerable damage during the time it takes to call the fire department. Sprinklers respond independently to a rated temperature setting. Only the sprinkler in the area of the fire will activate and usually only one sprinkler head is needed to extinguish or limit the fire to the area of origin. The piping used for sprinklers is tested at 200 pounds per square inch for two hours. This is approximately two to three times greater than the water pressure used in homes.

The "DYNAMIC DUO" of smoke detectors and sprinklers is like having a Firefighter in your home 24 hours a day.

If you have any questions about Fire Sprinklers, or have any other fire prevention needs, please contact the Sedro-Woolley Fire Prevention Bureau at 360-855-2252.