



**MAINTAIN YOUR HOME'S AUTOMATIC  
FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEM**



**RESIDENTIAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SPRINKLERS**

**SPRINKLER  
MAINTENANCE  
GUIDE**

**FOR**

**SINGLE FAMILY HOMES  
AND TOWNHOMES**

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU  
WHEELING FIRE DEPARTMENT  
2 Community Boulevard**

**(847)459-2669**



# MAINTAIN YOUR HOME'S AUTOMATIC FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEM



## FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM DON'TS

**DO NOT** PAINT ANY SPRINKLER HEADS OR COVER PLATE

**DO NOT** COVER ANY SPRINKLER HEADS

**DO NOT** DAMAGE ANY SPRINKLER HEADS OR EXPOSED PIPE

**DO NOT** REMOVE ANY SPRINKLER HEADS

**DO NOT** HANG OBJECTS FROM ANY SPRINKLER HEADS OR  
SPRINKLER PIPING

**DO NOT** OBSTRUCT SPRINKLERS HEADS

**DO NOT** TURN OFF SYSTEM IN CASE OF FIRE

The fire and life safety system in your home is required by local ordinance and; therefore, is required by law. Tampering or otherwise rendering the system inoperative is a violation of the law. Should any repairs, alterations or extensions to your fire and life safety system be deemed necessary, call the Wheeling Fire Prevention Bureau for the requirements and to obtain a permit prior to changing or modifying the fire and life safety system.

**REMEMBER:** RESIDENTIAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY  
SPRINKLERS AND SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE  
LIVES AND REDUCE FIRE INSURANCE COSTS.

**PLEASE CALL THE WHEELING FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU  
AT (847)459-2669  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.**

Additional information on residential fire and life safety sprinklers:

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all\\_citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/sprinklers/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/sprinklers/)

<http://www.residentialfiresprinklers.com/blog/firesafety/>

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pyfff/rsprnklr.html>



## MAINTAIN YOUR HOME'S AUTOMATIC FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEM



Your residential fire and life safety system provides early warning of a fire allowing time for your family to escape. To ensure that your fire and life safety system will work when you need it, you must inspect and test it on a regular basis.

### HERE'S HOW:

The following inspection and test procedure should be performed **QUARTERLY** :

\_\_\_\_\_ Visually inspect the sprinkler heads throughout your home to ensure they are not obstructed, corroded, damaged or painted. (Leave at least 18" of clearance space between the sprinkler heads and any storage items, particularly in closets.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Familiarize yourself with the location of the "water system control valve". Check the control valve and **KEEP IT OPEN AT ALL TIMES.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Conduct a "Fire alarm/water supply test" as follows:

- a. Open the test/drain valve slowly until fully open. Observe the drain to monitor its operation so that there are no obstructions and that the water drains instead of backing up into the house.  
*NOTE - before you do any test on the fire sprinkler system, be sure the system is not wired to your in-home fire/security alarm system. If it is, contact your alarm company and place the fire alarm in test mode.*
- b. Listen for the alarm. (It should sound in a minute and a half. (The alarm can be a bell, activation of the smoke detectors, or a combination of both a bell and the smoke detectors sounding.)
- c. Leave the test/drain fully open for three (3) minutes.
- d. Close the test/drain **slowly** and the alarm will reset.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Contact the Fire Department when any sprinkler activation occurs. In case of fire, leave the house closing all doors on the way. Call 9-1-1 once safely out of your residence to summon the Fire Department.**



## MAINTAIN YOUR HOME'S AUTOMATIC FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEM



The following inspection and test procedure should be performed **ANNUALLY**:

\_\_\_\_\_ Visually inspect the sprinkler heads throughout your home to ensure they are not obstructed, corroded, damaged or painted. (Leave at least 18" of clearance space between the sprinkler heads and any storage items.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Conduct a "Fire alarm/water supply test" as follows:

- e. Open the test/drain valve slowly until fully open. Observe the discharge into the drain to monitor its operation so that there are no obstructions and that the water drains instead of backing up into the house.

*NOTE - before you do any test on the fire sprinkler system, be sure the system is not wired to your in-home fire/security alarm system if you have one. If it is, contact your alarm company and put the fire alarm in test mode.*

- f. Listen for the alarm. (It should sound in 60 to 90 seconds after the water starts flowing. The alarm can be a bell, activation of the smoke detectors, or a combination of both a bell and the smoke detectors sounding.)
- g. Leave the test/drain valve fully open for three (3) minutes.
- h. Close the test/drain valve **slowly** and the alarm will reset.

\_\_\_\_\_ Backflow devices installed in the fire sprinkler system must be professionally tested and maintained at least annually by a State of Illinois licensed cross-connection control device inspector, and records to verify testing and maintenance shall be available at the site of the installation of the device or at other approved locations. (Illinois State Statutes - Code Section: 1998 Illinois State Plumbing Code, Section 890.1130).