



NEWS RELEASE

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Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives – A Live Fire Demonstration



Flames quickly spread through the non-sprinklered room as students watch.

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, in partnership with the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, staged a dramatic demonstration today of how effective a sprinkler system is in a home.

Fires kill more people in the United States every year than all natural disasters combined. Eighty percent (80%) of all fire deaths occur in the home and involve those least able to quickly escape – young children and senior citizens. Home fire sprinklers, combined with smoke alarms, cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 82% compared to having neither.



The room with no sprinklers flashes over.

The demonstration used side-by-side burn cells set up like living rooms. The burn cell to the left was equipped with a sprinkler system. The burn cell to the right was not. As a crowd of more than 100 students from local schools joined fire prevention professionals from across the region, firefighters went to work setting a fire in the burn cell without a sprinkler. Within 3 minutes of the fire igniting in a trash can, the room had “flashed over.” This phenomenon occurs when the temperature inside the room becomes so intense that the majority of surfaces in the room ignite along with the surrounding flammable gases. The result is that the objects, gases in the air and the smoke ignite.



36 seconds after ignition, a sprinkler douses the flames in the sprinklered room.

Firefighters extinguished the burning room and then set a similar fire in the room with the fire sprinkler installed. Flames quickly raced up a curtain and nearby lamp but, 36 seconds after ignition, the fire sprinkler kicked on and doused the flames with water.



This room DID have a sprinkler.



This room had no sprinkler.

“I hope every one of you seriously considers putting a residential sprinkler system in your home,” said TVF&R Fire Chief Michael Duyck, “a sprinkler system like this can save lives, and keep a fire in check long enough for you and your family to escape.”

For more information on home fire sprinkler systems visit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition’s website at www.homefiresprinkler.org.###