

For immediate release

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FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND SAFETY ADVOCATES ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN HOME FIRE SPRINKLER WEEK DIGITAL CAMPAIGN

QUINCY, MA April 29, 2024 – In every community, home fires are a severe threat to residents as well as responding firefighters. Homes account for 78 percent of all civilian fire deaths. Today this problem is intensified by the fact that homes with modern furnishings, open spaces, unprotected lightweight wood construction and emerging technology such as lithium-ion batteries, make home fires deadly in two minutes or less. To confront this stubborn public safety burden, fire departments and safety advocates across North America will team up May 12-18 for Home Fire Sprinkler Week. Together, they will amplify the message that fire sprinklers stop a fire from becoming deadly, protecting residents and firefighters.

The <u>Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) digital campaign</u> focuses on the home fire problem and the need for better understanding of the life safety benefits of installed home fire sprinklers. Every day there is a different theme and content for social media and websites that focus on key facts about home fire sprinklers. The messages are sized for various social media, so it is easy to share with little time and effort. Everyone is encouraged to visit the website every day during the week and share the messages

"Educating and increasing awareness about home fire sprinklers can be a challenge," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy and president of the HFSC. "What thwarts progress is lacking public awareness, rampant myths and the influence of special interests. More than 1 million homes are built each year, and less than 10% are protected with fire sprinklers. Homes without fire sprinklers counters the goals of community risk reduction. During Home Fire Sprinkler Week, we work together to increase awareness," Carli said.

Participants in Home Fire Sprinkler Week can take advantage of the free resources of the new <u>HFSC Studio</u> to create a wide range of educational materials for their fire sprinkler community outreach initiatives.

With this new, easy-to-use online tool, fire departments can design their own flyers, posters, and

social media cards; share messages through their social media platforms; and print customized materials to distribute at community events such as home shows and open houses, and during Fire Sprinkler Week and Fire Prevention Week.

Fire safety advocates know, and every year national fire data reinforces, installed fire sprinklers reduce home fire injuries, deaths and property loss. "That's why all national building codes require sprinklers in new construction," Carli says. "As a result, every new home built without fire sprinklers is by definition substandard. Today's homebuyers are savvy about safety and when they learn about fire sprinklers, they want them. The virtual reality, digital and other Home Fire Sprinkler Week resources underscore not just that we can do better; they underscore exactly how to do better."

For free resources and media information visit Home Fire Sprinkler Week Media Resources

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About the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC)

HFSC was formed in 1996 to inform the public about the life-saving value of sprinkler protection in one- and two-family homes. HFSC is a purely educational, nonprofit organization and the leading resource for independent, noncommercial information about home fire sprinklers. For more information about HFSC and home fire sprinklers, visit www.homefiresprinkler.org.

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