

What is an Automatic Sprinkler and how does it work?

An Automatic Fire Sprinkler System is designed to contain and control an unfriendly fire allowing your family the precious time needed to escape from danger and decrease the amount of damage to your valuables from heat and smoke.

An Automatic Fire Sprinkler System is a network of water-filled pipes which starts at your domestic water service line and ends with strategically spaced fire sprinkler heads located throughout your home. The sprinkler heads are frangible bulbs filled with a liquid that, when heated, expand causing the bulb(s) to break and the system to release water. The water from the sprinkler head will cover the area where the fire is located and will continue to operate until the fire department can fully extinguish the fire.



If I burn something on the stove will the sprinkler system activate?

No, the sprinkler system should not activate. A sprinkler system activates based upon the amount of heat produced by a fire, not the amount of smoke. When the system was installed, the sprinkler heads were placed at an appropriate distance from the stove to allow the heat from cooking on the stove to dissipate along the ceiling. However, if the food catches fire, the sprinkler head will activate.

Will the sprinkler head activate if I have a fire in my fireplace?

No, the sprinkler heads are spaced at a distance from the fireplace that should allow the heat from a fire to dissipate throughout the room.



If one sprinkler head activates, will all the sprinkler heads in the house activate?

No. The sprinkler system is designed to discharge water from one or possibly two sprinkler heads located in the immediate vicinity of the fire. Since water from a discharging sprinkler head will cool the fire the rest of the house will remain at temperatures that are lower than what it takes to activate additional sprinkler heads.



What do I do if I break a sprinkler head ?

If you accidentally break a sprinkler head, you will need to do two things. First, shut the water off to the sprinkler system. In most cases, the shut off valve will be located where the domestic water pipe enters your house. Second, contact a fire sprinkler contractor who can replace the sprinkler head for you. If you do not have a fire sprinkler contractor, please contact the building department for a list of licensed contractors.

If I want to paint the rooms in my house, can I paint the sprinkler heads to match?

No, painting the sprinkler head will interfere with the activation of the head. This could result in the sprinkler head not activating or working as it was designed. If you want to paint the room, it is suggested that you cover the head with a paper or plastic cup and paint around it. If paint is applied to the sprinkler head, the sprinkler head will need to be replaced.



What if I want to modify my house?

Depending on the extent of the alterations to your home, your sprinkler system may need to be adjusted to provide proper protection. Contact the sprinkler company who maintains your sprinkler system. If you do not have a fire sprinkler contractor, please contact the building department for a list of licensed contractors.



Will my homeowner's insurance be reduced since I have a fire sprinkler system?

Each insurance company evaluates a residential fire sprinkler system differently. To get the most accurate information, contact your insurance company and speak to them about it.

Dear Resident,

Welcome Home! I want to take this opportunity to inform you about one of the most important features in your new house, the Automatic Fire Sprinkler System. This guide will provide you with some basic information about how your sprinkler system works and answers to some common questions about residential fire sprinklers systems. After reviewing this information, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew Schumacher, CFPS, CFEI
Fire Marshal, City of Newark, DE.

Topics Covered:

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- *If I have a fire in the fireplace, will the sprinkler heads activate?*
- *If one sprinkler head activates, will all the sprinkler heads in the house activate?*
- *If I break a sprinkler head, what do I do?*
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- *What if I want to modify my house?*
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Emergency Numbers

<u>Police</u>	911
<u>Fire</u>	911
<u>Ambulance</u>	911
<u>Poison Control</u>	(800) 222-1222

Non Emergency Numbers

City of Newark

<u>Electric Dept</u>	366 -7050
<u>Building Dept. or Fire Marshal</u>	366 -7075
<u>Water Dept</u>	366 -7055
<u>Public Works Dept.</u>	366 -7040
<u>Parks and Recreation</u>	366 -7060

Family Numbers



A Guide To Your Residential Fire Sprinkler System



Building Department
City of Newark, Delaware