

# Fire Sprinkler Success Stories: How do Sprinklers Save Lives

Viking Group, Inc.

# Simple / Effective / Dependable



## Sprinklers Work



# **Sprinkler Saves**

- Automatic fire sprinkler systems are working every day to control or extinguish a fire.
- Each "Sprinkler Save" has a unique story ...
  - ... a family not displaced from their home
  - ... a small business able to resume operations quickly
  - ... an employee that is able to keep his/her job
  - ... an arsonist whose malicious intentions were stopped
  - ... environment damage that is minimized
  - ... tax payer money saved

**SPRINKLER**SAVES

... cultural property not damaged from fire

**SPRINKLER**SAV

www.sprinklersaves.com

- Started in late 2011, this blog is a daily effort to promote any successful sprinkler activation that is reported in the media.
- Nearly 3,000 "sprinkler saves" recorded.
  - Note: In the situation where a sprinkler activated in a fire, but a person was burned, we do not post this as a "sprinkler save" to this blog.

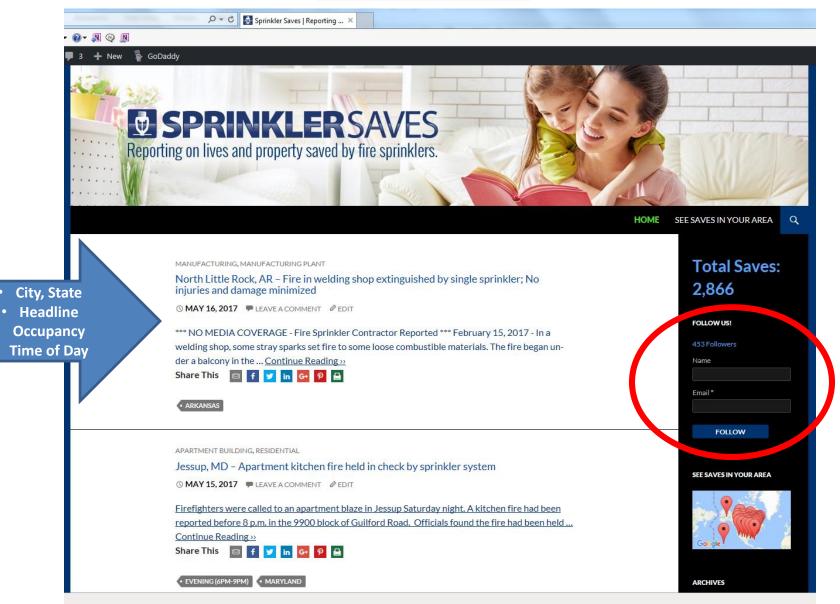
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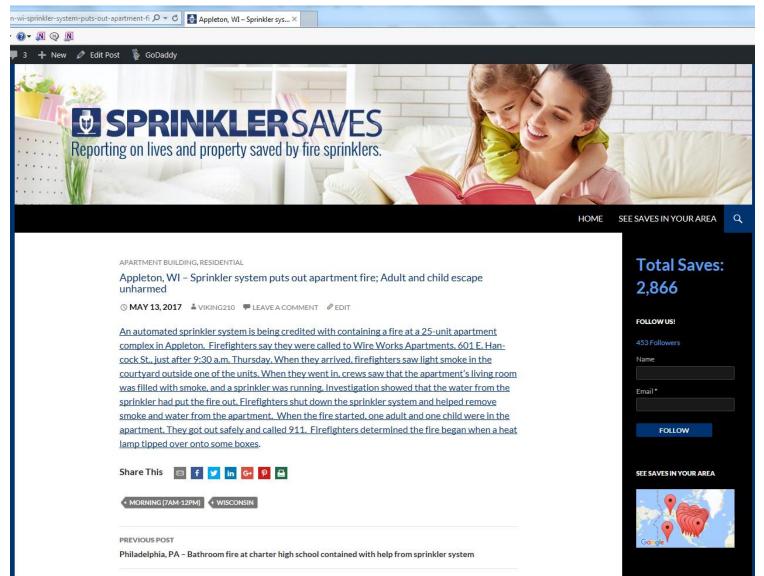
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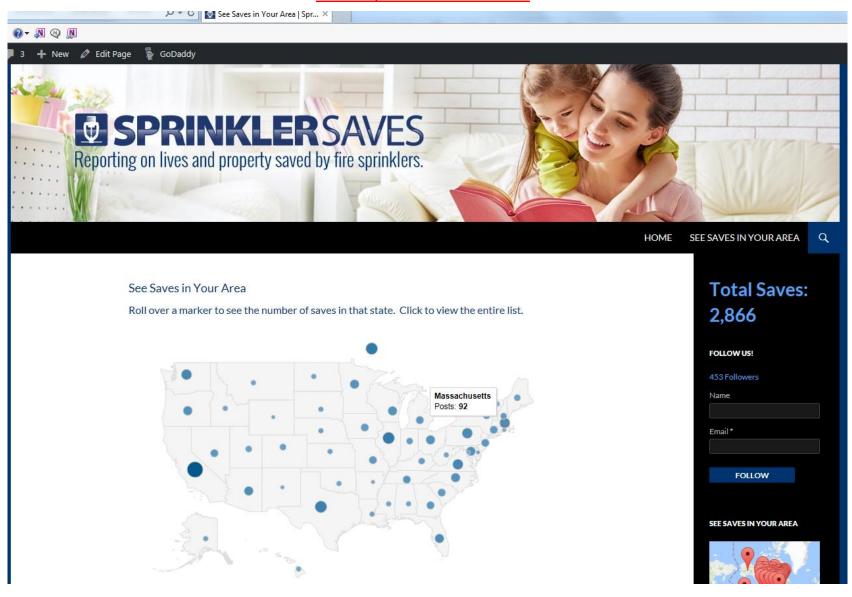
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 Nearly 3,000 "sprinkler saves" recorded to date (North America only), but only a small fraction of actual "sprinkler saves" are reported by the media. Most do not receive media coverage.
– Consider the following:

### <u>"Sprinkler Saves" Blog</u> <u>Five Year Period from Nov. 2011 to Oct. 2016</u> <u>2,517 Recorded Sprinkler Saves</u>

	Houston	12 saves			
	Philadelphia	10 52/05			
107 Recorded Saves					
Total Population: 30 million					
	LUS AIIgeles	/ saves			
	Boston	7 saves			
	Washington DC	6 saves			
	Austin	6 saves			
	Miami	5 saves			
	Dallas	5 saves			
	New York City	4 saves			
	Cleveland	4 saves			
	Atlanta	3 saves			
	San Francisco	3 saves			
	St. Louis	3 saves			
	Denver	3 saves			
	Fort Worth	2 saves			
	Detroit	0 saves			

	Madison, WI	20 saves		
	Prescott A7	11 521/05		
127 Recorded Saves Total Population: 2.0 million				
	winnington, NC	9 saves		
	Lincoln, NE	9 saves		
	Rochester, MN	9 saves		
	Champaign, IL	8 saves		
	Columbia, MO	8 saves		
	Rochester, NY	7 saves		
	Rapid City, SD	7 saves		
	Sioux Falls, SD	7 saves		

### How are sprinklers often portrayed in the media?

Senior housing fire forces evacuations, brings water damage

Sampson Independent (Clinton, NC) April 22, 2016

Following small fire in Elliott Hall, sprinkler response leaves water damage

Columbia University Spectator (New York City) March 5, 2016b

Minor fire causes sprinkler damage to apartments

Fox Carolina (Spartanburg, SC) July 1, 2013

Small fire, Water from sprinklers cause damage to downtown store

M-Live / AnnArbor.com (Ann Arbor, MI) December 14, 2012

Fire at Stephens College causes water damage, no injuries

The Missourian (Columbia, MO) March 5, 2016

Kitchen fire causes damage at Indiana School for the Deaf

"School officials said water from the sprinkler system actually caused more damage than fire"

WXIN-TV, Fox59 (Indianapolis, IN) June 4, 2010

# "Sprinkler Saves" Blog

www.sprinklersaves.com

- <u>Goal #1</u>: Promote <u>every</u> successful sprinkler activation.
  - Each sprinkler save is a teachable moment ... Demonstrating how the effectiveness of automatic fire sprinkler systems in helping the fire service address our country's fire problem.
- <u>Goal #2</u>: Influence <u>how</u> the media reports on fire sprinkler activations ... Focusing attention on the devastation that was avoided, with the help of a successful sprinkler activation.

SPRINKLER SAVES

# "Sprinkler Saves" Blog

www.sprinklersaves.com

- Analyzing the database of "sprinkler saves" provides some interesting statistics. Looking at 2,880 saves recorded on the blog (through May 16, 2017) ...
  - 1,130 sprinkler saves occurred in residential occupancies
    - Of these, 36% occurred in the overnight or early morning hours (9-7)
  - 305 fire in a manufacturing operation contained by sprinklers
  - 210 "senior saves" in nursing homes or senior living facilities
  - 180 sprinkler saves in a hotel or motel

SPRINKLER SAVES

- 141 arson fires snuffed out by sprinkler system
- 127 sprinkler saves in primary/secondary schools
- 76 confirmed sprinkler saves in residential high rise buildings

# "Sprinkler Saves" Blog

www.sprinklersaves.com

- 64 warehouse fires contained by sprinkler system
- 62 successful sprinkler activations in college residence halls
  - Several times more than this at off-campus residential occupancies
- 2 sprinklers saves in fires started by burning love letters ... one of which was caused by a professional ice hockey player
- 1 sprinkler save in a liquor store where sunlight through a Vodka bottle acted as a magnifying glass igniting cardboard boxes
- 1 sprinkler save in large snake habitat, caused by a malfunctioning heat lamp (most snakes survived)

SPRINKLER SAVES

 1 electric player piano fire at nursing home – piano allegedly started playing on its own in the middle of the night, then subsequently caught fire and was extinguished by a sprinkler

## Fire Growth without Sprinklers



## Fire with Sprinklers





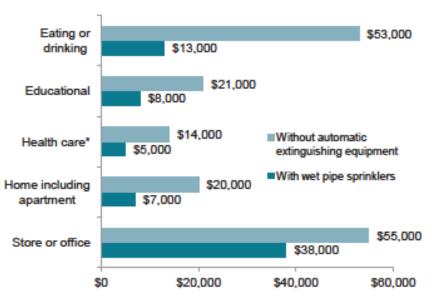


### U.S. Experience with Sprinklers

Sprinklers save lives and protect property from fires.

Compared to properties without automatic extinguishing equipment and specifying wet-pipe sprinklers

- The death rate per fire in sprinklered homes is lower by 82%.
- Direct property damage per fire in sprinklered homes is lower by 68%.



#### Damage per Fire With Wet Pipe Sprinklers versus Without Automatic Extinguishing Equipment, 2007-2011

\*Health care includes hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and doctor's offices.

Sprinklers are reliable and effective.

- In reported structure fires large enough to activate them, sprinklers operated in 91% of fires in sprinklered properties.
- Wet-pipe sprinklers operated in 92% of these fires vs. 81% for dry-pipe sprinklers.

### SPRINKLER SAVES

Reporting on lives and property saved by fire sprinklers.

SPRINKLER SAVES

# THANK YOU!

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