



## U.S. Experience with Sprinklers

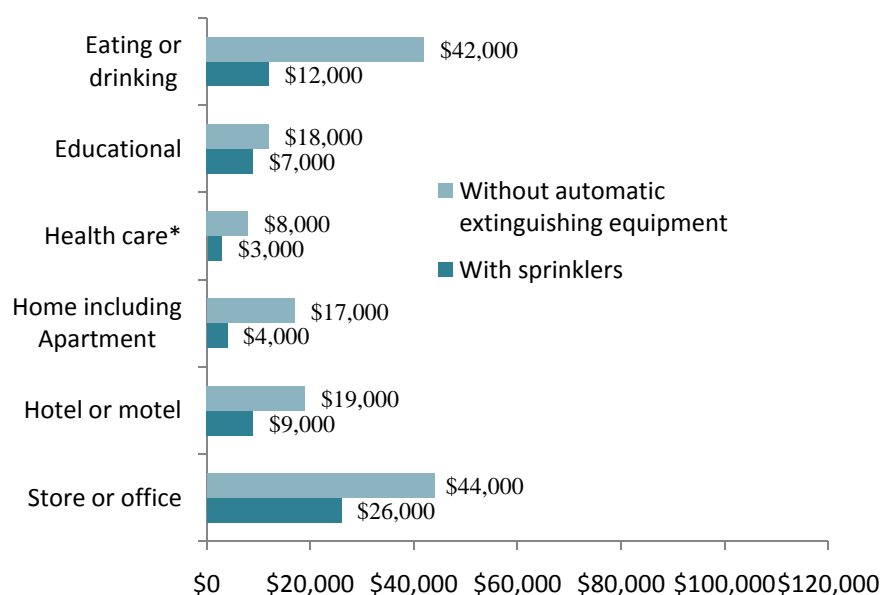
Sprinklers save lives and protect property from fires.

Compared to properties without automatic extinguishing equipment

- The death rate per fire in sprinklered homes is lower by 83%.
- For most property uses, damage per fire is lower by 40-70% in sprinklered properties.

Flame damage was confined to the room of origin in 95% of fires in sprinklered properties vs. 74% in fires with no automatic extinguishing equipment.

**Damage per Fire With and Without Sprinklers, 2003-2007**



\*Health care refers to hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, doctor's offices, and mental retardation facilities.

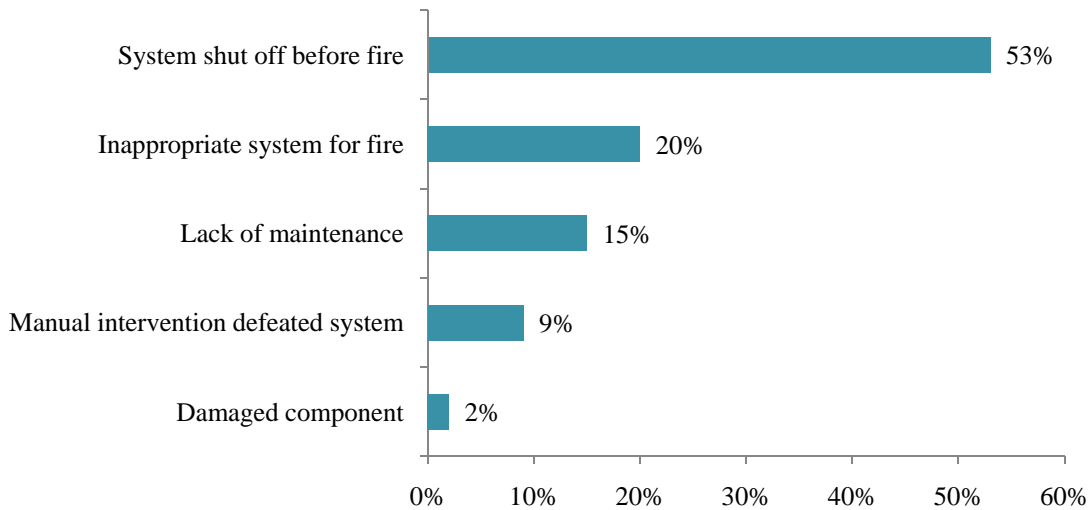
Sprinklers are reliable and effective.

- In reported structure fires large enough to activate them, sprinklers operated in 93% of fires in sprinklered properties.
- Wet pipe sprinklers operated in 95% of these fires vs. 83% for dry pipe sprinklers.
- In reported structure fires large enough to activate them, sprinklers operated and were effective in 91% of fires in sprinklered properties.
- Wet pipe sprinklers operated and were effective in 92% of fires vs. 79% for dry pipe sprinklers.

**NOTE:** NFPA's Fire Sprinkler Initiative: Bringing Safety Home is a nationwide effort to encourage the use of home fire sprinklers and the adoption of fire sprinkler requirements for new construction. See [www.firesprinklerinitiative.org](http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org).

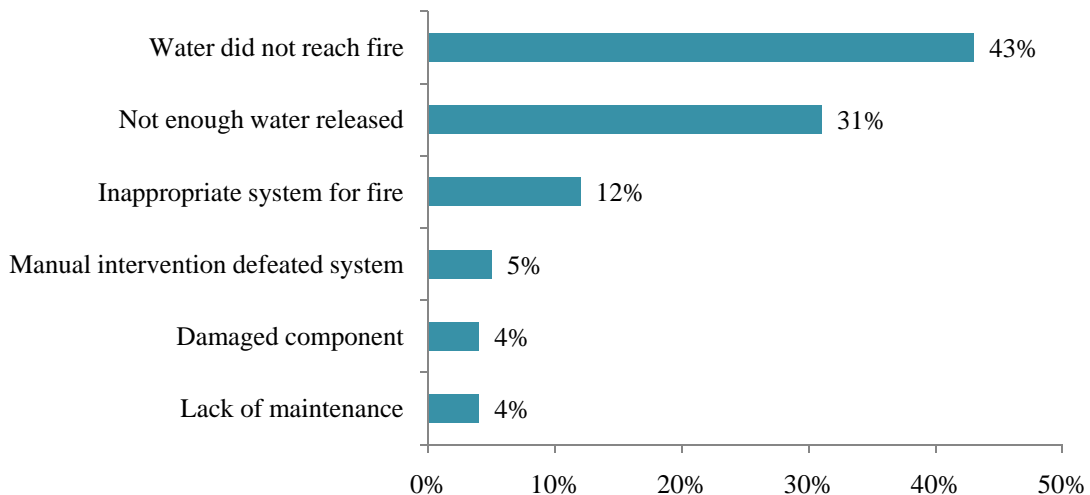
The graph below is based on the 7% of fires in sprinklered properties (roughly 1,000 fires per year) in which the sprinkler should have operated but did not.

### Reasons When Sprinklers Fail to Operate 2003-2007



In fires where sprinklers operated, they were effective in 97% of the cases. The graph below is based on the other 3% (roughly 400 fires per year), in which the sprinkler was ineffective.

### Reasons When Sprinklers Are Ineffective 2003-2007



Usually only 1 or 2 sprinklers are required to control the fire.

- When wet pipe sprinklers operated, 89% of reported fires involved only 1 or 2 sprinklers.
- For dry pipe sprinklers, 74% involved only 1 or 2 sprinklers.

Statistics are based on 2003-2007 U.S. reported fires excluding buildings under construction. Sprinklered properties exclude properties with no sprinklers in fire area.