

Warrington



Township

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WARRINGTON FAMILY AND HOUSE SAVED BY RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER

Shortly after eating dinner on Thursday, February 26, 2009, the residents at 1318 Palomino Drive, Warrington, PA noticed a strange odor inside the dwelling that was irritating their eyes. Thinking that it was a natural gas leak, they contacted PECO. The PECO serviceman arrived and, while investigating the source of the odor, found a smoke condition on the second floor of the dwelling. The PECO serviceman advised the occupants to evacuate the building and once outside called 911. At approximately 6:45 p.m., the Warrington, Warwick, Hartsville, and Horsham Fire Companies, along with the Warrington Police Department and Ambulance were dispatched for a dwelling fire. Upon arrival, firefighters found that a fire in the second floor bedroom had been extinguished by a single residential fire sprinkler. Firefighters quickly spread tarps over the first floor contents to limit the extent of water damage. The homeowner and her two young children, who were home at the time of the fire, escaped uninjured.

The four year old son was reading a book to his two year old sister in the room of origin prior to dinner. While reading the book, the little boy took the lamp off of the dresser and removed the shade to use it as a ôhatö. When called downstairs for dinner by their mother, the little boy and girl left everything, including the lamp with an exposed light bulb, on the bed. The fire started accidentally when the hot light bulb

ignited the bedding materials. The single sprinkler head, which discharged approximately 200 gallons of water, limited the fire damage to the bed sheets, blankets and mattress.

Benefits realized by having a residential sprinkler installed in this dwelling are as follows:

- The occupants were able to escape the dwelling without injury.
- Firefighters did not have to risk their lives to enter, search or extinguish an out of control fire.
- The fire damage was limited to the area of origin.
- The amount of water used to extinguish the fire was a couple of hundred gallons versus several thousands of gallons if the fire would have extended beyond the area of origin.
- The toxic gases generated by the burning materials were significantly reduced.
- The family, consisting of a mother, father and two children, will hopefully be able to reoccupy their dwelling faster than if the fire had extended beyond the area of origin.

The Warrington Township Fire Marshal's Office wants to remind everyone that **SMOKE ALARMS** and **SPRINKLER SYSTEMS** save lives and offers the following safety tips:

1. Install smoke alarms on every level of your dwelling, outside sleeping areas and in each bedroom.
2. Maintain smoke alarms by changing the battery once a year and regularly clean the alarm with a hair dryer or vacuum cleaner.
3. Have your sprinkler system inspected on an annual basis.
4. Prepare an emergency evacuation plan and practice it on a regular basis.

Since enacting a residential sprinkler ordinance in 1989, approximately 3,600 dwellings have been constructed with residential sprinkler systems. During the same time period, there have been approximately eight fires that have been extinguished by residential sprinklers.