WHO WE ARE:

The SC Fire Sprinkler Coalition is an advocacy group consisting of partners from the fire service, sprinkler installers, as well as state and national stakeholders in community risk reduction and fire prevention. Our mission is to educate anyone who will listen (homebuilders, prospective home buyers, members of the fire service community, and the general public) about the availability, affordability, and most importantly, the life-saving ability of residential fire sprinklers.

SC FIRE STATISTICS: - Based on 2007 to present:

Residential fires where sprinklers were determined to be present and operated showed an estimated fire dollar loss per sq. ft. of $1.67, compared to $7.05 per sq. ft. in non-sprinklered residences.

Fire service personnel are 81% more likely to be injured in a non-sprinklered residence.

There have been 289 recorded fatalities since 2007 where the residence was determined to not have sprinklers. There have been 0 recorded fatalities in residences that have sprinklers.

In 2014, SC suffered 80 fire deaths in residential fires, ranking us as 5th in the nation in residential fire fatalities per capita. What is even more alarming is that we have been in the top ten of those figures, with the exception of one year, for the past 35 years. SC was #1 in residential deaths, nationally, from 1987 to 1989. This is one of the few statistics in which you actually want to finish last.

According to the NFPA, there is a residential fire every 76 seconds, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths each year.

Nationally, eight out of ten fire deaths occur in the places where people feel safest – their own home. (NFPA and U.S. Fire Admin. Data)
**EFFECTIVENESS:**

Home fire sprinklers can contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene.

According to the National Fire Protection Association standards on fire department responses, the national average response time requirement for primarily career departments is 8 minutes; and the average response time requirement for primarily volunteer departments in rural areas is 14 minutes. These times do not include the time it takes for someone to recognize the presence of a fire, react and call 9-1-1; nor does it include the amount of time it takes for the fire to be dispatched and, in the case of a volunteer department, the time for volunteers to respond to the station to get the fire engine. Many departments are doing much better than these times, but given that the amount of time that it takes for a room to become fully involved with fire - making much of the rest of the home unsurvivable - is under 5 minutes, the majority of property damage, fire injuries, and deaths are occurring before the fire department arrives.

**When it comes to fires, the best water is the fastest water - and the fastest water comes from a fire sprinkler.**

**Having a home fire sprinkler system is like having a firefighter in your home, on duty, 24 hours a day.**

Installing both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system reduces the risk of death in a home fire by 82%, relative to having neither.

Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire. Ninety percent of fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler.

Home fire sprinklers use only a fraction of the water used by fire department hoses. Most residential sprinkler heads are designed to flow between 10 and
13 gallons per minute. Generally, a fire hose will flow an average of 100 gallons per minute.

Burned toast or any smoke cannot operate a sprinkler system; only intense heat caused by a fire will activate the sprinkler.

**SMOKE DETECTORS:**

Smoke detectors are essential, life-saving notification devices. However, smoke detectors are often not enough. Recent studies have shown that sleeping young children and the elderly often do not react to the sound of an activated smoke alarm. I have personal experience related these findings and my own children. In fact, this experience was a major deciding factor when my wife and I chose to retrofit our home with fire sprinklers.

Smoke detectors and home fire sprinklers are two life-saving innovations that work better **TOGETHER**.

**COST:**

While there are a lot of different installation costs floating about, we are seeing actual installation costs in SC, as low as $1.03 per sq. ft. in new construction. Nationally, on average, home fire sprinkler systems cost $1.35 per square foot of sprinklered space in new construction. I retrofitted my existing home for under $2.00 per sq. ft. By comparison, installation of the typical lawn sprinkler system in SC costs an average of $2,000 according to Home Advisor. Granite countertops can average as much as $50 to $100 per square foot, according to HGTV. In my case, my sprinkler system cost less than my countertops.

There are professional contractors doing residential fire sprinkler installations at very affordable pricing. My advice to the consumer is to shop around until you find one that gives you a price that works for you.
**WILL THEY LEAK?**

If properly installed and insulated, home fire sprinkler systems are at least as reliable as home plumbing systems. Accidental water discharge is much more likely to come from your home plumbing system, than from sprinklers.

My home was without power for several days, during the 2014 ice storm, and I never had a sprinkler pipe to break or leak.

**WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?**

There are several types of fire sprinklers made for homes; some are for installation on walls and others in ceilings; some are concealed by a plate. All residential fire sprinklers are much smaller and lower-profile than the types of sprinklers used in commercial and industrial properties.

**MANDATES:**

There currently is NO mandate in SC requiring the installation of home fire sprinklers in one and two-family homes. It is not the mission of the SC Fire Sprinkler Coalition to advocate for mandates. Our mission is to educate about home fire sprinklers as an affordable, life-saving option.
FACTS ABOUT THE CAROLINA CLASSIC HOME & GARDEN SHOW:

Sponsors: Presented by Clyde Nettles and sponsored by The State and SCE&G

Who: The Building Industry Association of Central South Carolina
Formerly the Home Builders Association of Greater Columbia

When: Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15 – 2015
Hours of the Home and Garden Show are:
Friday, March 13th from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.,
Saturday, March 14th from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m
Sunday, March 15th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m

Where: SC State Fairgrounds. Every building and the midway.

How Much: Admission is only $6 Children under 14 admitted free.

The Home and Garden Show features over 200 vendors, seminars nearly every hour on a variety of topics, and a free program that gives a listing of builders, remodelers and exhibitors and their location within the show.

Resources:
Common Voices Information: FireAdvocates.org (advocacy info)
Fire Sprinkler Info/Resources: HomeFireSprinkler.org (Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition)
Fire data and statistics: NFPA.org (National Fire Protection Association)
Fire Sprinkler Information: NFSA.org (National Fire Sprinkler Association)
Fire Safety Information: strategicfire.org (Vision 20/20 initiative)