The New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board
Fact Sheet - Sprinklers

- To date, there has never been a multiple loss of life due to fire in a structure with a fully-installed and well-maintained sprinkler system.

- The chances of dying in a fire are reduced by one-half to three-fourths and the average property loss is cut by one-half to two thirds, compared to fires where sprinklers are not present.

- Sprinklers are activated by heat, not smoke. In fact, the heat necessary to set off your average sprinkler is anywhere from 150 to 165 degrees, in other words only the level of heat a fire would cause.

- Only one or two sprinkler heads activate in 81% of fires with wet pipe sprinkler systems operating, and in 56% of fires with dry pipe systems.

- The cost to install fire sprinklers is roughly 1%-2% of the total building cost, comparable to the cost of installing carpeting. In NJ, due to industry and economic factors, this percentage is slightly higher.

- On average, a fire sprinkler will use 15-25 gallons of water per minute to control a home fire. This is compared to the estimated 150-250 gallons that is used by firefighters, which equals 8.5-15 times more water used than a sprinkler system.

Sources:
- National Fire Protection Association, Fire Analysis and Research Division. U.S. Experience with Sprinklers and Other Fire Extinguishing Equipment. August 2005