



CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
"Proudly Meeting the Needs of our Community"

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Lyle N. Koerner, Jr., Chief

Emergency Calls	911
Administration	715/839-5012
Inspections/Investigation	715/839-4825
After Hours	715/839-5013
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City Website	www.eauclairewi.gov

NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 18, 2012
TO: All News Media
FROM: Michael Laska Fire Inspector
SUBJECT: Fire Sprinkler Side by Side Demonstration

Eau Claire Fire and Rescue has been awarded a \$1,000 stipend through the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition to educate the community on how fire sprinkler systems can quickly and effectively control a fire in its incipient stage, saving lives and property. This educational process is done using a side-by-side fire sprinkler demonstration. We will construct two side-by-side rooms, furnishing both rooms with similar furniture to simulate a typical room in a home or college dorm. One room will have a smoke detector and one fire sprinkler installed in the ceiling of the room; the other will have only a smoke detector installed.

We will then start a fire in each of the rooms demonstrating to the public how fast a fire grows to flashover and the dangers associated with it. We will educate attendees on how a working smoke detector in your home or dorm is so important in giving you the earliest possible warning of a fire in progress and thus enabling the opportunity to escape. One of the fires will be controlled by the one fire sprinkler; the other will be put out by fire personnel after they arrive on-scene.

Once the fires have been extinguished, we will show the amount of damage done to each room and what the estimated cost to repair and rebuild each room would be. In addition we will discuss how the one room with the fire sprinkler will give the occupants of the home or dorm the added seconds to escape and call 911. We will discuss the value of having life-saving sprinklers installed in the home, school and work place. In fact, the technology exists to have these places retrofitted with a fire sprinkler system.

With the permission of and help from UWEC, this special event will take place at UWEC Towers Parking lot on May 1 at 3:30 p.m. with a rain date of May 2 at 3:30 p.m. We will be inviting Eau Claire City Council members; UWEC & CVTC officials, faculty and students; members of the Home Builders Association; contractors; the media; and the general public.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

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