

Archived: Monday, December 7, 2020 2:26:17 PM
From: [Debbie Tarry](#)
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 2:15:26 PM
To: [Susan Chang](#)
Cc: [Pollie McCloskey](#); [Heidi Costello](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Question about potential residential sprinkler requirement
Response requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal

Susan –

Below is a response to your question. The response is from the Fire District. We will put this in the Green Folder for tonight.

Debbie Tarry
City Manager | City of Shoreline
Pronouns – she/her
17500 Midvale Avenue N, Shoreline, WA 98133
☎ (206) 801-2211 | www.shorelinewa.gov



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From: Ray Allshouse <rallshouse@shorelinewa.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 2:09 PM
To: Debbie Tarry <dtarry@shorelinewa.gov>; John Norris <jnorris@shorelinewa.gov>; Jessica Simulcik Smith <jsimulcik@shorelinewa.gov>
Cc: Rachael Markle <rmarkle@shorelinewa.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Question about potential residential sprinkler requirement

Hi Debbie... Please forward Derek's response to Councilmember Chang's questions. Ray

From: LaFontaine, Derek (FM) <dlafontaine@shorelinefire.com>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Ray Allshouse <rallshouse@shorelinewa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Question about potential residential sprinkler requirement

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Hello Ray,
Great questions from Councilmember Chang.

We absolutely respect Seattle's approach, and we actually collaborate on some things with Seattle. But the Zone One (Z1) fire departments have taken a different approach/perspective on residential sprinklers.

All Z1 Fire Departments have some form of sprinkler ordinance much like Shoreline currently has. With Kenmore, Redmond, and Mercer Island, having a full residential sprinkler ordinance. Generally speaking, residential fires are our most frequent type of fire, require the most resources, and cause the most devastation in our communities. We are also departments with limited resources, meaning one structure fire can deplete all of our resources, requiring mutual aid from neighboring departments.

For Councilmember Chang's 1st question, we don't have the data on age of homes. I would say the construction type of most of the homes we've responded to old or newer, have had similar construction methods; wood framed type V construction with light weight trusses.

We have had two fatalities since 2014, and have had several close calls, meaning the occupants barely made it out. And ofcourse there are firefighter injuries related to these responses.

Most fires were accidental fires; several kitchen, candle, electrical, improper ash disposal, dryer fires, and heat source to close to combustibles. These fires spread rapidly due to the combustibility of current modern furnishings, studies show fires can double in size every 30 seconds.

As far as stakeholders, I have had several informal discussions. Because Shoreline already has a partial sprinkler ordinance, the feeling is the next step of a

full ordinance is close. The water purveyors have adjusted and sprinkler designers are using flow through sprinkler system designs that has made it affordable (2-2.50 per sq ft in this area).

If I can answer anymore questions please let me know.

Respectfully,
Derek LaFontaine

Fire Marshal
Shoreline Fire Department
Desk: 206-533-6571
Prevention: 206-533-6565



From: Ray Allshouse <rallshouse@shorelinewa.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:40 AM
To: LaFontaine, Derek (FM) <dlafontaine@shorelinefire.com>
Subject: FW: Question about potential residential sprinkler requirement

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Derek... Please respond to this one. As I recall Seattle does not require sprinklers in townhomes either. Ray

From: Debbie Tarry <dtarry@shorelinewa.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Ray Allshouse <rallshouse@shorelinewa.gov>; Rachael Markle <rmarkle@shorelinewa.gov>; Jeffrey Curtis <jcurtis@shorelinewa.gov>
Cc: John Norris <jnorris@shorelinewa.gov>
Subject: FW: Question about potential residential sprinkler requirement

Ray/Rachael –

Could you please prepare a response as this is on the meeting agenda for tonight. I assume that question #1 may need to be coordinated with the Fire District.

Debbie Tarry
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From: Susan Chang <schang@shorelinewa.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Debbie Tarry <dtarry@shorelinewa.gov>
Subject: Question about potential residential sprinkler requirement

Good morning, Debbie,

In speaking with a couple of people at my office, I found out that Seattle has chosen not to require sprinklers in single family/duplexes. I'm trying to find out more, but one of the reasons I have heard is that modern construction (plus the requirement for smoke detectors) is more fire resistant than older homes. They then considered the lack of fatalities and driving up the cost of affordable housing (e.g. ADUs) to come to their conclusion.

(1) For the statistics on number of structure fires we have had in Shoreline, is there additional information on structure age and number of fatalities?

(2) Have we reached out to stakeholders on this question?

Thanks,
Susan

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