

### **Three Apartment Fires, Same Day, Very Different Outcomes**

On January 15th, 2017 a fire in an unsprinklered apartment building in Toledo, Ohio led to four fatalities and 60 people being without home and property, including residents of adjacent apartment buildings. Witnesses said the blaze began in a middle-floor apartment of the three-story, 12-unit building. Three adults and one child died in the blaze.

On the same day, two other apartment fires were reported. One in Appleton, Wisconsin and one in Wilmington, North Carolina. Both of the buildings were equipped with a fire sprinkler system. The outcomes, so very different than the tragedy in Ohio, were testaments to the difference a fire sprinkler system makes in a residential fire.

When the fire department arrived at an apartment fire in Appleton, Wisconsin, the fire sprinkler system inside the building had doused the flames. Everyone was evacuated, but were allowed to return to their apartments after fire crews ensured the fire was out and the damage limited to one area.

In Wilmington, North Carolina, the fire department was alerted to a fire at a high-rise apartment building. The department credited a single sprinkler activation with extinguishing the fire and containing it to the area of origin. A department spokesman said there was minimum fire damage to the apartment where the fire originated and no fire damage to any other apartments.

The National Fire Sprinkler Association extends its condolences to those affected by the fire in Ohio and urges anyone that is looking to relocate to please consider fire sprinklers when buying, building or renting. It can mean the difference between life and death.

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