

S A F E T Y N O T E S



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Fire Prevention Month

October, 2016

Each year in October we as a nation remember the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 which resulted in the deaths of more than 250 people, left 100,000 without homes, and destroyed more than 17,400 structures.

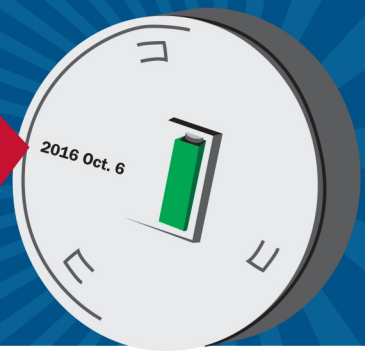
Remembering this historic event helps us to understand the importance of fire safety, fire codes and personal preparedness.

Annually a theme for Fire Prevention Week is designated by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to encourage Americans to look at the fire safety issues in their homes. This year's theme is "Don't Wait-Check the Date! Replace smoke alarms every 10 years" because age matters when it comes to smoke alarms. All smoke alarms need to be replaced when they are 10 years old or they may not respond. This message is important because working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half. With over 2,700 lives lost in residential fires, the numbers reflect a basic failure to act on the knowledge that working smoke alarms require everyone's involvement in their own life safety.

Landlords face several challenges keeping the smoke alarms in all of their units up-to-date. If the alarm system in their units is hardwired and monitored by the fire alarm service, residents should not be encouraged to test the alarms themselves as it may set off a false alarm for the building. However, even with monitoring services involved, it is important for the landlord or manager to know how old the smoke alarms are and whether the alarms are ionization or photoelectric. For most single station smoke alarms (no monitoring) the age can be determined by looking at the back label to find an exact date of manufacture. If you cannot find a date on the back, the unit is likely much older than 10 years and should be replaced. If there are repeated nuisance alarms near the kitchen or shower areas, it is likely the alarm is ionization. The problem can be solved by replacing the alarm with a photoelectric version.

Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 9-15, 2016

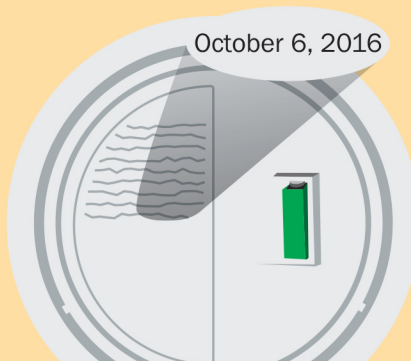
Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



October 6, 2016

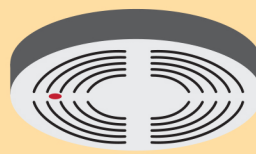


2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



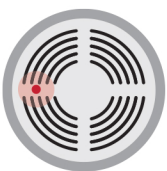
A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and firepreventionweek.org.

U.S. Fire
Administration



FEMA



NFPA is the official
sponsor of Fire Prevention
Week since 1922

Smoke Alarm Overview

Every home needs working smoke alarms. Follow these tips for smoke alarm safety!

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- When installing, follow the instructions that come with the alarm.
- The two most common types of smoke alarm technologies are ionization and photoelectric. Photoelectric are generally more responsive to smoldering fires. It is best to have at least one photoelectric alarm on each level of your home.
- There are special smoke alarms available for people who are hard of hearing or have profound hearing loss.

October, National Fire Prevention Month, is the perfect time to check on the age and condition of the smoke alarms in your care. If the alarm requires alkaline batteries, now is a good time to replace them. Many alarms on the market now have built-in lithium batteries that should last the life of the alarm. No matter the type, it is still a good idea to check the date and conduct monthly tests of each unit!

Smoke-Free Housing Community Resource



Did you know that smoke-free policies are within your legal rights as a landlord? If you are a property owner or manager, consider implementing a smoke free policy for your property. Smoke-free policies have many benefits including lowering risk of fire, decreasing insurance costs, protecting residents from secondhand smoke exposure, reducing unit turn time, and may improve the

odds your units will be occupied. Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) works with multi-unit housing providers to help choose a policy, work with tenants during the process, and implement the policy. They can provide signage, lease addendums, and a toolkit with sample policies and other helpful resources. SRHD also has a \$250.00 grant available for housing providers who want to implement a policy. To learn more about who qualifies for the grant or for information about smoke-free housing, visit www.srhd.org and search for smoke free housing or call the SRHD Healthy Communities Program at 509-324-1530.

You can sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting [Jamie McIntyre](mailto:jmcintyre@spokanefire.org) at jmcintyre@spokanefire.org or by calling 509.625.7058



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