



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: *October 27, 2014*

CONTACT: *Penni Overstreet-Murphy, Fire Prevention Specialist*
(909) 386-8472, 800-426-8689, pager #1486

TIME IS MONEY

If time really is money, then you will want to make sure that on Sunday, November 2, 2014 you act quickly and change your batteries in your smoke alarms. Perhaps more importantly, is that it is a lifesaving activity that the entire family can join in on. Make sure your family has a home escape plan and then practice your escape after you have tested your smoke alarms. With so many sounds being emitted in our homes it is critical to know what YOUR smoke alarm sounds like.

You probably heard during Fire Prevention Week from October 5-11, 2014 that “Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month! With so many different smoke alarms available, County Fire wants to make sure that you have some basic information on how to make a decision on this life saving alarm:

- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms. That way when one smoke alarm is activated they all sound. Interconnection can be done using hard-wiring or wireless technology.
- When interconnected smoke alarms are installed, it is important that all of the alarms are from the same manufacturer. If the alarms are not compatible, they may not sound.
- There are two types of smoke alarms – ionization and photoelectric. An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or combination ionization-photoelectric alarms, also known as dual sensor smoke alarms, are recommended.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. To determine the age of your smoke alarm, look at the back where you will find the date of manufacture. Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture. There are smoke alarms that have a 10 year lithium battery.
- Immediately replace any smoke alarm that does not respond properly when tested. Make sure to buy only smoke alarms that have a label from an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriter’s Laboratory (UL).
- Replace combination smoke-carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

Choose smoke alarms that have features that are important to your family: dual technologies (smoke and carbon monoxide, dual sensor alarms, interconnected, hush buttons, or ones that can be tested using a flashlight or TV remote. The main thing is to HAVE WORKING SMOKE ALARMS. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries.

Beside your smoke alarms, make sure all your other fire safety equipment has working batteries, such as carbon monoxide detectors, flashlights, emergency radios, etc. San Bernardino County Fire Department reminds residents that when they change batteries in any of their household equipment to take them to a collection facility instead of placing them in the trash. For facility locations go to our website (www.sbcfire.org/hazmat/hhwcollection.aspx).