

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

Subject: Fire Prevention Month; Fire Prevention Week, October 3-9, 2010
“Smoke Alarms – A Sound You Can Live With”

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The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District wants to remind everyone to test their smoke detectors to ensure they are working properly. In addition, we’re reminding everyone to change the batteries in all smoke detectors twice each year – when you change your clocks in the Fall and Spring, change the batteries in your smoke detectors. As Fire Prevention Month kicks off, take the time to change your batteries now!

Working smoke detectors save lives. According to the National Fire Protection Association, nationally, 40% of all home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms. The death rate per 100 reported fires was twice as high in homes without a working smoke alarm as it was in home fires with this protection. In 2009, a total of six (6) fire deaths occurred in the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District; three (3) of those deaths were attributed to fires in homes with no smoke alarms.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District will be distributing and installing smoke detectors in high risk areas throughout the communities we serve this month. In the course of their daily interaction with members of the public and through targeted neighborhood campaigns, our engine companies will be taking the opportunity to ensure smoke detectors are working properly, changing batteries if necessary, and installing detectors in residential occupancies without a working smoke detector. Our goal is to install 500 smoke detectors in residential occupancies without a working smoke detector this month in an effort to increase fire safety in our communities.

Don’t wait for us to show up! Take steps now to purchase and install a working smoke detector in every bedroom of your home as well as the hallway immediately outside of any bedrooms. Smoke detectors are an inexpensive safety device and can be purchased from most hardware stores. If you are a landlord or property owner who rents or leases an apartment or residential dwelling, it is your legal responsibility to furnish functioning smoke detectors in occupancies you rent to others.

Remember – A WORKING SMOKE DETECTOR CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!