



OREGON

Kate Brown, Governor

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September 28, 2016

For Immediate Release

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Governor proclaims October as Fire Prevention Month in Oregon

In support of the theme of National Fire Prevention Week, and at the request of the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, Governor Kate Brown has proclaimed October as Oregon Fire Prevention Month. Oregon's theme mirrors the national theme: "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 years."

"Smoke alarms are your first line of defense against deadly fire, but they can't protect you if they don't work," said State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. "Smoke alarms don't last forever, if your alarm is more than 10 years old, replace it."

In the five-year period from 2011 through 2015 in Oregon, home fires killed 143 people, and injured another 980.

Working smoke alarms provide an early warning to fire, allowing you vital minutes to escape, and increasing your chances of surviving. Additional fire safety tips:

- For increased protection, have working smoke alarms on every level of your home (including the basement), in each bedroom, and outside any sleeping area (hallways).
- Look at the date on the back of your smoke alarm, if it's 10 years old or older replace it.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for the type of battery to use in your smoke alarm.
 - Smoke alarms with a non-replaceable (long-life) battery are designed to be effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, immediately replace the entire smoke alarm.
 - Never disconnect or remove batteries from smoke alarms for other uses.
- Smoke alarms are available for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Ensure you have a home fire escape plan and practice it with your family.
- Keep exits clear and know two ways out of every room.

- For a free smoke alarm check and installation, contact the American Red Cross at preparedness@redcross.org or 503-528-5783.

The OSFM encourages Oregonians to use the hashtag #icheckedthedata on their social media posts to encourage others to participate in fire safety for Fire Prevention Month..

For more smoke alarm and fire safety information, contact your local fire agency or visit: http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CommEd_SA_Program.shtml.