



News Release

Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department
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For Release: IMMEDIATE

Every smoke alarm has an expiration date: What's yours?

Sunrise Fire-Rescue urges all residents to replace their smoke alarms every 10 years

(Sunrise, FL) – Does your home have a smoke alarm? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the answer is likely yes: most American homes have at least one. But do you know how old your smoke alarms are? If you're like most people, you're probably not so sure.

It turns out that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced. That lack of awareness is a concern for the City of Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department and the NFPA, along with fire departments throughout the country, because smoke alarms don't last forever.

"Time and again, we've seen the life-saving impact smoke alarms can have in a home fire, as well as the tragedy that can result when smoke alarms aren't working properly," says Sunrise Fire Chief Thomas DiBernardo. "That's why we're making a concerted effort to educate our residents about the overall importance of smoke alarms, and that they do have a life-limit."

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and its expiration date, simply look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date (*not* the date of purchase). Smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and batteries should be replaced once a year or sooner if they begin to chirp - signaling that they're running low.

Be sure that everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it:

- Get out and stay out!
- Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call 911 from outside the home.

For more information on smoke alarms and this year's Fire Prevention campaign, "Don't Wait: Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years", visit www.firepreventionweek.org.

As Sunrise Fire-Rescue ramps-up outreach efforts throughout October, firefighters will be visiting elementary schools and preschools throughout the City to teach children about smoke alarms and fire-safety. On October 31st from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at all five Sunrise fire stations, we'll be giving out Halloween candy to trick-or-treaters, as well as fire-safety tips! Call (954)746-3465 for details.

For ongoing safety tips and news from Sunrise Fire-Rescue, please visit www.sunrisefl.gov/fire, 'Like' us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @SunriseFRD.

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