



Fire Department

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MEDIA ADVISORY
NATIONWIDE CALL TO CHECK SMOKE DETECTORS
A message from the US Fire Administration and the Milwaukee Fire Department

From July 3rd through July 25th, 2006, the Milwaukee Fire Department responded to over 31 structure fires that resulted in one fire fatality, a four-year old female, and over \$700,000 in damage. Nationally, nearly 25 children died in home fires during this time. Twelve were in homes with no working smoke detector. Fires that kill are a sad daily reality.

There is no single more important item in any household than a working smoke alarm. Nationwide, nearly one-third of residential fires and two-fifths of residential fatal fires occur in homes with no working smoke detectors. In Milwaukee since January of 2004, there have been 34 fire fatalities; of these, 27 were in homes that had a non-working smoke detector, had no smoke detector, or the fire department was unable to determine the condition of the detector before the fire.

Having a working, properly placed smoke detector reduces your chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50%. Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside of bedrooms. If you sleep with your doors closed, or have young children, have a smoke detector in each bedroom. Check the alarm once a month, and replace the batteries once a year or when the detector starts chirping.

To obtain more information on smoke alarms and fire safety from the US Fire Administration visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or call the Milwaukee Fire Department.

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