



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GlendaleAZ.com/Fire

Glendale Fire Department

6829 North 58th Drive / Glendale, Arizona 85301

623-930-4400



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CONTACT: Capt. Michael Young, PIO, 623-986-0148

GLENDALE FIRE URGES ALL RESIDENTS TO KNOW HOW OLD THEIR SMOKE ALARMS ARE, AND TO REPLACE THEM EVERY 10 YEARS

Glendale, Ariz. — Does your home have a smoke alarm? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the answer is likely yes: NFPA research shows that most American households 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.

A recent survey conducted by NFPA revealed 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 Glendale Fire Department and NFPA, along with fire departments throughout the country, because smoke alarms don't last forever.

"During my almost 40 years in the fire service, there have been countless times a smoke detector was the only reason a family got out of a house fire safely," Glendale Fire Chief Terry Garrison said. "Smoke detectors not only save people's lives but they also increase firefighter safety. If firefighters can get to the fire in the beginning stages, they can put the fire out quicker and protect more of our customers' belongings".

NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code®, requires smoke alarms are replaced at least every ten years, but because the public is generally unaware of this requirement, many homes have smoke alarms past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk.

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, NFPA is promoting this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10

Years,” to better educate the public about the critical importance of knowing how old their smoke alarms are and replacing them once they’re ten years old. Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15, 2016.

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and its expiration date, look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced ten years from that date (not the date of purchase). The Glendale Fire Department also says smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and that batteries should be replaced once a year or when they begin to chirp, signaling that they’re running low.

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

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