

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2010



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**WORKING TOGETHER TO SPARK FIRE PREVENTION
AWARENESS**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (September 29, 2010) Fire Prevention Week is being recognized October 3rd through October 9th, and this year's theme is "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With."

Studies have shown that a smoke alarm is one of the most effective and least expensive tools you can employ to dramatically increase your chances for surviving a fire. In fact, smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a fire by half. However, in order for a smoke detector to do its job, it must be present, properly located, and functioning properly. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside all sleeping areas, and on every level of the home, including the basement. It is recommend that smoke alarms be tested once a month using the test button, changing batteries twice a year, and replacing smoke alarms every 10 years or as recommended by the manufacturer.

Fire Prevention Week is a perfect opportunity to determine if your home has the proper level of smoke alarm protection.

In recognition of the week, and to serve as reminders to the community, banners will be displayed at all Fire Stations in the City of Suffolk. Firefighters and Fire Marshal's Office staff will be visiting churches, schools, civic groups, and other organizations during Fire Prevention Month presenting programs to support this year's theme. An information booth will be set up in the City tent at Peanut Fest.

The Fire and Life Safety House will be in operation at Peanut Fest and other events during the month so that our children can learn firsthand how to crawl out of a burning building, in addition to other important fire safety information.

For more information regarding Fire Prevention Week and general fire and injury prevention, or to schedule a presentation during Fire Prevention Month (October), citizens may call the Fire Marshal's Office at 514-4540 or 514-4550.

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