

Fire Prevention Week October 3 - 9: Test Your Smoke Alarms

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 70 percent of home fire deaths occur in homes without a working smoke alarm. That's why NFPA, which sponsors Fire Prevention Week each year, has made 'Test Your Smoke Alarms' the theme for Fire Prevention Week 2004, which runs October 3-9.

NFPA recommends testing your smoke alarms once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions. Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year, or as soon as the alarm "chirps," warning that the battery is low. Consider installing smoke alarms with "long-life" (10-year) batteries.

Important safety tip from NFPA: Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm, or disable smoke alarms even temporarily. If your smoke alarm is sounding "nuisance alarms," try relocating it farther from kitchens or bathrooms, where cooking fumes and steam can cause the alarm to sound.

For more information about National Fire Protection Association's Fire Prevention Week visit: <http://www.nfpa.org/FPW/index.asp>

Also, take a look at these articles in the Newsroom Archive:

Is Your Smoke Detector Working?

When the Smoke Detector Activates: Get Out! Stay Out!