



Sarasota County Communications

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Residents reminded smoke alarms save lives

While the winter season provides a break from the heat and humidity in Florida, it also is a time for an increased risk of residential fires. According to the United States Fire Administration, the 2008 holiday season and the start of 2009 may go down as one of the deadliest for residential fires, despite the fact that most fatal fires are preventable. A properly working smoke alarm can mean the difference between life and death, so residents should install, maintain and test their smoke alarms now.

Sarasota County Fire Marshal Jane Ross says smoke alarms are among the most affordable safety devices you can buy to protect yourself, your family and your home. Because they provide an early warning signal that allows you and your family to escape a home, they are very important to preventing home fire fatalities.

Prevent tragedy by testing and maintaining your smoke alarms and preparing a fire escape plan. Test all smoke alarms in your home or business once a month and replace batteries annually or as indicated by the manufacturer's instructions.

The Sarasota County Fire Department offers free smoke alarms to those in need.

For more information on smoke alarms and fire escape plans contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for the Fire Prevention Office.

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