



News Release

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Over 29 years: “Where there’s smoke (detectors) there’s (Altus) Fire”

(ALTUS, OKLAHOMA): The Altus Fire/Rescue Department has smoke detector program sponsored by the Altus Fire Union (Firefighters Local 2749). This program allows homeowners to receive a free installation of 1 smoke detector on each level of your home. If someone rents to own their home or buying their home then we will provide a detector. Landlords, by state law, are required to supply their rental homes with a smoke detector.

For the past 29 years, the Altus Fire Department has installed over 2,500 free smoke detectors. This is an average of over 85 a year. “Our goal is to reduce fire deaths and to educate to the public the importance of maintaining a working smoke detector” says Altus Fire Chief Kyle Davis.

Smoke Detector Preparedness Tips:

- Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. If you keep bedroom doors shut, place a smoke alarm in each room. Install detectors away from windows, doors and air ducts as this may interfere with its operation.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and remember to change your batteries when the time changes.
- Keep smoke alarms clean and dust free. Dust and debris can interfere with its operation.
- Never remove the battery from or disable a smoke alarm. As soon as you hear a low battery warning, change the battery or call the Fire Department to come and inspect your detector.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear it. Plan regular fire drills to practice your escape plan ensuring everyone in your home knows exactly what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Every plan should include two ways out and a meeting place (i.e. solid structure like a tree or bush)
- Like most devices, smoke alarms wear out. Replace your alarms every 10 years or as recommended by the manufacturer. When you install a new smoke detector, label it with a permanent marker the date you installed so that you know exactly the age of your alarm.

Fire statistics show that working smoke alarms can double your chances of survival in a home fire. According to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report "Smoke Alarms in U.S. Home Fires", three (3) of every five (5) home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (38%) or no working smoke alarms (21%).

If you would like to know more information on fire safety or to have a smoke detector installed, please contact the Altus Fire Department at (580) 481-2231 or badams@altusok.gov.

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