



MCAS Yuma Fire Department Reminds Residents that “Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives” – Test Your Smoke Alarms Monthly

It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 5-11, in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, MCAS Yuma Fire Department is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents that “Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives, and to Test Your Smoke Alarms Monthly”. During this year's fire safety campaign, fire departments will be spreading the word about the danger of failing to ensure you have working smoke alarms in the home and motivating people to have smoke alarms installed in their home and to test their smoke alarms each month to ensure they're working properly.

Smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a fire, but they need to be working. Unfortunately, many home fire deaths result from fires where a smoke alarm is present but does not operate.

According to the latest NFPA statistics, having a working smoke alarm in the home cuts the risk of dying in a fire by 50%. On average each year, 60% of five home deaths result in fires where there are either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. In 23% of home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.

“Nearly 3,000 people continue to die in fires each year, with most of these deaths occurring in the home. The vast majority of home fire deaths are preventable, and working smoke alarms play a significant role in helping reduce those numbers”.

Among the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Installing smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Testing ALL smoke alarms every month by using the test button.
- Replacing ALL smoke alarms every 10 years or sooner if they don't respond properly when tested.
- If you have young children, acquaint them to the sound of a smoke alarm and educate them on how to respond or what to do if a smoke alarm sounds in the home.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

For more information contact:
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