

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

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Special pullout section

4 Pages

HHFD: Working smoke alarms saves lives

Working smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a fire. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, the Halton Hills Fire Department is joining forces with the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) during Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11, to remind local residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home and testing them monthly.

According to the latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms can reduce the chance of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, almost two-thirds of residential fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"In a fire, seconds count," said Fire Chief Brent Marshall. "Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

Ontario law requires that working smoke alarms be located on every level of the home and outside all sleeping areas. Meeting the requirements of the law alone is not enough to protect your family and home.

To do this you should follow these Smoke Alarm tips: Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every



Halton Hills Fire Department responded to this house fire last year.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do. Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button. Replace all smoke alarms when

they are 10 years old or sooner if they don't respond properly. Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.

To learn more about smoke alarms

and "Working Smoke Alarms Saves Lives", visit NFPA's website at www.firepreventionweek.org or contact Acting Captain Mark Burger of the Halton Hills Fire Department, markb@haltonhills.ca or 905-873-2601 ex 2115.

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