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THE BULLETIN

Official monthly publication of the
Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

Volume IX Issue 8

Dennis R Mallery, Editor

August 2014

Inside this Issue:

- Notes from the August Association Meeting
- Incident Safety Officer Drill
- The Disappearing Volunteer Firefighter
- MSFA AFG Workshop Schedule
- Activities from around the area

Association Gathers At GoodWill for August Meeting



The August meeting of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association was held at the

GoodWill Armory and presided over by President Clarence Broadwater. Chaplain Pete Walbert offered the invocation and performed a short memorial service for those who passed away since our last gathering. Roll Call of Departments showed 21 present (57%) with the following not represented: Baltimore Pike; Bittering; Bloomington; Corriganville; Deep Creek; Deer Park; Ellerslie Ambulance; Frostburg Ambulance; Gorman; Grantsville; Kitzmiller; Oakland; Orleans; Rawlings; Southern Garrett and Tri Towns EMS.

Past Presidents recognized included Bob Knippenburg, Jim Decker, Ron Grabenstein, Pete Walbert, Aaron Winters, Denny Bonner, Rod Bowser, Dave Kyle, Pat Bowser, Mike Simmons, Tim Dayton, Clarence Broadwater, Dennis Mallery and Barbara Knippenburg. Guests in attendance included Rose Schurg, PP AGCVFRA LA; Tricia Blank, AGCVFRA Guard; Betty Grabenstein, PP LAMSFA/AGCVFRA LA; Commissioner Bill Valentine,

Sami Jo Kight, MSFA Western Region Jr. Miss Fire Prevention; John Herath, Allegany County EMS Chief and Tim Growden, Chief Allegany County Special Ops.



Pat Bowser, Volunteer Company Assistance Fund, reported the committee met in Friendsville in July and

heard applications from Bedford Road, Havre de Grace and Aberdeen. A conference call was scheduled with the Executive Committee to review the applications for approval. Pat has also been working on the Committee's annual report which is a complicated task.



Pete Walbert, Fellowship of Christian Firefighters, reported the August meeting was hosted by Eastern

Garrett with 11 in attendance. Mary Carr read a poem. Pete read the 23rd Psalm in memory of those who passed away since the July gathering and offered the Prayer for Joys and Concerns. The Rev. Dan Agnew offered the meditation from the 13th Psalm. The next breakfast

meeting is to be held September 6th at Bedford Road. All members are invited to attend.



Dick DeVore, Allegany Co. Dept. of Emergency Services, noted the accounting questionnaires have

been sent out by the accounting firm working with the County. Departments need to complete and return them as soon as possible. The accounting firm will then set up a meeting with the president, treasurer, financial secretary and one trustee at a future date then. The Pump Test Committee has set their schedule for September's tests. Six departments had not yet completed their 'I Am Responding' paperwork, need to contact Roger Bennett. This is the program that is to replace the phone texts. The Department is working on replacing the Allconet email addressees with Google email accounts. Those affected by the flooding in July can now apply for low interest loans through the Small Business Administration's office that will be located at Cresaptown's station. John Herath noted the fail rate for Allegany County EMS units is 6.5%, up from 5.5% this time

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Upcoming Meetings

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Aug 23-24: Williamsport Fire & EMS

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Association

Sept. 7: Friendsville

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Assoc. L.A.

Sept. 14: Oldtown

Garrett County Association

Sept. 24: Grantsville

Mike Walters Fellowship of Christian Firefighters

Sept 6: Bedford Road

FIRE CHALLENGE” CAUSES SERIOUS BURNS TO INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN A DANGEROUS ACTIVITY

(Editors Note: The Maryland State Fire Marshal’s Office recently released the following statement and it is reprinted here in its entirety.)

A potentially deadly activity has been causing several victims to receive serious burn injuries resulting from pouring a liquid accelerant on their body and setting themselves on fire. The “Fire Challenge” is performed in front of a camera to be placed on social media sites for viewing and sharing with the world.

The seriousness of this stunt has rendered a call to parents and teenagers alike to discuss the potential effects of this activity. Several emergency rooms across the country have reported receiving victims with significant burn injuries to their upper torso and extremities. A 15 year-old male succumbed to his injuries in Buffalo, NY as a direct result of the activity.

Although no reports have been received by the Office of the State Fire Marshal at this point, we definitely want to get the word out to help prevent these occurrences in the State of Maryland. Most news interviews concerning this activity reveal that young survivors did not give any thought of the potential for being severely injured or even killed because they did not understand the fire would become so intense.

“The potential of receiving permanent debilitating injuries or worse from this act should be shared with our youth to help prevent an emergency room visit,” stated State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci. “Please take the time to discuss this issue with family and friends to

avoid a potentially tragic situation”.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is an agency of the Department of State Police dedicated to helping protect citizens from fire and explosion through a comprehensive program of education, inspection, investigation and fire protection engineering. For more information on fire safety call 1-800-525-3124, log onto our website at: www.mdsp.org/firemarshal and/or <http://facebook.com/MarylandStateFireMarshal>.

MFRI Announces 2014 AFG Workshops

In cooperation with Senator Barbara A. Mikulski; Congressman Steny H. Hoyer; Maryland Emergency Management Agency; The Maryland Governor’s Grants Office and the Maryland State Fireman’s Association present the a FREE series of regional Firefighter Grant Workshops for all Fire and EMS personnel and will assist departments in preparing a successful Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program application.

The Western Region Workshop will be held at the W. MD Regional Training Center on Wednesday, Sept. 24th from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

GoodWill Hosts August Meeting, Raffle Winners Drawn

last year. John also noted he had sent out an email to Departments explaining that the lists of those not yet completing the 2014 Protocol Update was incorrect as some had completed it but not removed from the MIEMSS list. John will be working on updating the list to correct it. EMS crews are being sought to assist Garrett County EMS with Deep Creek 2014 in September. Crews were also being sought to standby at the fairgrounds during the health clinic being provided by the US Dept. of Homeland Security. Tim Growden noted they were attempting to put together a Collapse Rescue class. There was 14 pre-registered and he needed at least 50% of the registrants to be from Allegany County before requesting funds from the Special Ops budge to start the course.



Dave Kyle, **Ways & Means**, thanked those who sold or purchased raffle tickets for the Beef / Gift Card Raffle, as well as

those who worked the booth at the Ag/Expo. The winner of the \$250 gift certificate from B&B Meats was Debbie Marsh, Oldtown, and Ron Smith, Cumberland. Those who assisted in selling or purchasing tickets included, from Allegany County, Barton Hose, Baltimore Pike, Bedford Road, Cumberland Hose, Ellerslie Fire, Flintstone, George’s Creek Rescue, Good Will, Midland, Mt. Savage, Oldtown and Potomac. From Garrett County, those who sold or purchased tickets included Accident, Bittinger,

Bloomington, Northern Garrett Rescue and Friendsville as well as the Association’s Ladies Auxiliary.



John Shuhart, **Insurance**, reported making Relief Fund payments for Robert Shumaker, Northern Garrett Rescue, and

Kenneth Fuller, Baltimore Pike. If any company that belongs to the Relief Fund and has a member, who’s listed on their Relief Fund list, contact John so payment can be made on their behalf. All companies have returned their Relief Fund forms and payments for 2014 with the exception of Deep Creek. John also noted that the accident insurance questionnaires would be mailed out soon. Please complete them and return as soon as possible.



Gene Kidwell, **Past Presidents**, noted the August picnic was approaching. He’s also taking sugges-

tions for upcoming dinner meetings. Dues for 2014 are also due from fellow Past Presidents. Contact Jim Decker to make payment.

Under Unfinished Business, Mary Carr presented the Association with a check from the Ladies Auxiliary’s Past Presidents for the Scholarship Fund. Ron Grabenstein, MSFA Tag Coordinator for Allegany County, reported on an

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Baltimore County Sets Date for Hiring Examination

The Baltimore County Government has listed the following information in regards to the next examination for the position of Probationary Firefighter. More information is available at agency.governmentjobs.com/baltimorecounty

Position: Probationary Firefighter Closing Date: Friday, September 19th 4:30 pm
 Salary: \$16.40 - \$22.35 Hourly \$34,102.00 - \$46,484.00 Annually Job Type: Merit
 Location: Various locations throughout Baltimore County, Maryland
 Pay Schedule V, Grade PF, Regular Schedule 40 hours per week
 A list of eligible applicants will be established based on the examination as outlined below. You **MUST** meet the following requirements **before you can be hired** as a Probationary Firefighter:

- Have a high school diploma, GED, or a state accredited equivalent;
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have a valid driver's license equivalent to a non-provisional, non-commercial, Class C Maryland driver's license;
- Have fewer than 4 points on driving record;
- Pass the written examination;
- Pass the physical ability examination;
- Pass the panel oral interview;
- Complete a comprehensive background investigation;
- Pass a physical and psychological examination, including a drug test; and
- Abstain from the use of tobacco products throughout their employment

IMPORTANT TESTING INFORMATION BELOW

Make sure to read about the testing process outlined in the "QUALIFICATIONS" section of this job posting.

Qualifications:

You **MUST**:

- Have a high school diploma, GED, or a state accredited equivalent;
- Be 18 years of age or older **at the time of application**;
- Have a valid driver's license equivalent to a non-provisional, non-commercial, Class C Maryland driver's license is required **at the time of application**;
- Have fewer than 4 points on driving record
- Pass a written exam;
- Pass a physical ability exam;
- Pass a panel oral interview;
- Complete a comprehensive background investigation;
- Pass a physical and psychological examination; including a drug test; and
- Abstain from the use of tobacco products throughout their employment

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10th Annual A Night To Remember

A Gala Event To
Honor Our Fallen
Firefighters and
Rescue Personnel
Who Have Made
The Ultimate
Sacrifice!

Dinner, Dancing and a
Silent Auction

Saturday, Sept. 27th
6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Hager Hall &
Conference and
Event Center
901 Dual Highway
Hagerstown, MD

Tickets \$10/couple

For tickets, contact
Joyce at (301) 290-1590
or
Betty at (301) 855-9336

For those wishing to stay
overnight, a block of
rooms have been
reserved at
The Clarion Hotel
901 Dual Highway
Hagerstown, MD
*Continental Breakfast
Provided*

\$79.00 + tax (cut-off Au-
gust 27th) Mention 'MD
Firefighters'
when making your
reservation
Call 1-888-528-6738

or
301-733-5100

The Disappearing Volunteer Firefighter

By Andrew Brown and Ian Urbina

August 16, 2014
New York Times

IN most places in America, when a fire breaks out, a volunteer shows up to put it out. But the ranks of volunteers are dwindling. What was once an iconic part of American life is losing its allure, in part because the work — some would say the calling — is a lot less fun than it used to be.

There are still more than twice as many volunteers as career firefighters. But the number of volunteers has dropped by around 11 percent since the mid-1980s, while the number of career firefighters has grown more than 50 percent, according to the National Fire Protection Association. The allure has diminished because fundraising now takes up roughly half the time most volunteers spend on duty. It's also harder to fit in volunteer work. The rise in two-income households often means that there is no stay-at-home parent to run things so the other can dash off for an emergency. Urbanization and the aging of the rural population are taking their toll as fewer young people are available to replace firefighters who retire.

Federal, state and local officials would like to attract new volunteer recruits. The stakes are particularly high because volunteers save not only lives but money — more than \$139.8 billion annually for local governments, according to the fire protection association. The time and training needed to become a certified firefighter have also increased. Federal standards enacted to save firefighters' lives have unintentionally cre-

ated a barrier for volunteer service: It now takes hundreds of hours to be certified, and new firefighters often must cover the cost of training.

Other costs are also contributing to the dwindling of the ranks. Since the 1980s, the price of a single self-contained breathing apparatus has jumped to over \$5,000, from \$900. A fire engine costs \$400,000 more than it did 30 years ago. In surveys, firefighters consistently cite the endless burden of fundraising, which takes up to 60 percent of their work time, as one of the biggest deterrents to staying on the job.

For decades, departments relied on benefit auctions, raffles and community bingo events to cover overhead. In recent years, however, departments have had to resort to adding fire taxes onto local property-tax bills, or charging homeowners and insurance companies for individual response calls. Others have merged with neighboring departments to cut costs.

Vincent P. McNally, a volunteer firefighter and an emeritus associate professor of political science at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, who has studied the decline of volunteer firefighters, said that too much is being asked.

"I fund-raise, I train and I go to fires," he recounted being told by one fire chief. "I can do two out of the three. You tell me which two out of the three you want me to do."

Firefighters' duties have also shifted. In many departments, a vast majority of calls are for medical emergencies, not fires. Much like emergency room doctors, volunteer firefighters are increasingly serving as primary care providers. They are also routinely dispatched for water rescues, vehicle entrapments, hazardous material spills and drug overdoses.

Since 1986, the number of fire-related calls for all firefighters, volunteer and paid, has dropped by more than 3.6 million. In 2012, only 5 percent of calls were for actual fires. But the total number of fire department responses has jumped by 167 percent in 26 years, largely because medical responses have gone up by 15.2 million.

Still, the work is dangerous. Last year, 97 firefighters died, according to the National Fire Protection Association, including nine who died when a fertilizer plant exploded in West, Tx. Thousands more are injured every year.

Meanwhile, state and municipal governments are trying different tactics to entice new recruits.

Municipalities in Florida, New Mexico, Minnesota and many other states offer stipends to volunteers to cover time spent training, the cost of travel and overnight or on-call service. Others have provided some pay for volunteers based on the number of calls they respond to, their level of training or the years they've served — or simply by the hour.

New York State grants volunteer firefighters property tax abatements, income tax credits and \$50,000 in death benefits if they die in the line of duty. Most states allow volunteer departments to provide workers' compensation, often through state-run programs.

"Benefits are important — yes, to compensate volunteers for their time, but also to show that the community values their service," said David Finger, the government relations director for the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Underlying many such recruitment efforts is an elemental question: Should volunteer firefighters be defined as public employees and afforded all the according benefits and protec-

tions?

Some states like California, Missouri and New Jersey have said yes, granting them things like taxpayer-subsidized pensions, college tuition assistance and life insurance benefits. And in a decision that could markedly increase the number of unionized firefighters in the state, Pennsylvania labor officials have granted many volunteer firefighters the right to organize.

After some volunteers argued that they should not be categorized as public employees because requirements of the new health care act could bankrupt small firehouses, the Internal Revenue Service ruled this year that volunteer departments are exempt from the mandate.

In the meantime, the burdens on firefighters continue to grow. Edward A. Mann, a volunteer chief in Pennsylvania, said that training requirements keep increasing partly because volunteers are now being called to do much more than just "putting water on fire." Terrorist attacks and improvised explosive devices, malfunctioning solar panels and wind turbines, ethanol and natural gas fires, and electric- and hydrogen-powered vehicle accidents — these are just some of the emergencies for which training is needed, said Mr. Mann, who is also the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner.

"Every time something goes wrong with that stuff, someone dials 911," he said, "and guess who gets sent?"

Andrew Brown is a news intern for The Morning Call of Allentown, Pa. Ian Urbina is an investigative reporter for The New York Times.

GoodWill Hosts Meeting, Tag Chairman To Be Invited To Next Meeting

email/letter that was disseminated to the Tag Coordinators regarding holding up issuing new FD tag certificates to Departments listed by the MSFA Tag Committee as not having turned in their recertification forms for the MSFA tags. Ron explained some on the MSFA list had their individual department's tags for many years and should not have been included on the list. It was suggested to write and have Chairman Tom Flint attend the next Association meeting.



A
BIG
Thank You
to
Charlie
Wills
for your
recent
donation to
The
Bulletin!!

MSFA 2014 SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

October 14-15

Howard County Dept. of Fire & Rescue
Services Pubic Safety Training Center
Marriottsville, MD

Keynote Speaker:

Gordon Graham

'What is Real Risk Management?'

'Seven Rules of Admiral Hyman Rickover'

'Tips for Success'

Breakout Sessions:

'Near Misses' (IAFC)

'Fireground Safety' (IAFF)

'Johns Hopkins Cardiac Prevention Program' (JHMC)

'Roadway Safety' (MD SHA & MSP)

'Injury & Accident Prevention' (MOSH)

'Training Safety' (MFRI)

'16 Life-Safety Initiatives' (NFFF)

More information or registration can be found at mfri.org/announcements/2014safetysymposiumhcdfra.pdf or hcdfrs.net

Incident Safety Officer

The following article appeared in the July 20, 2014 issue of Firehouse.com as Weekly Drill #150 and was prepared by Russell Merrick. It is presented here by the Safety Committee of the Association.

One of the most important positions within the Command Staff is that of the Safety Officer. Back in the day, incidents were run without thinking of staffing an Incident Safety Officer (ISO), but times have changed. Most fire departments today are assigning an ISO to every working fire. How do fire departments make the determination as to who will fulfill the position of Incident Safety Officer? In some departments, the ISO is a staff officer working, generally, in the training division, who will either monitor incidents over the radio or self dispatch if necessary. While this might sound like a good choice, what happens at night and on the weekends, when this individual is off duty? Does the department expect the ISO to respond during his off time?

Another question that is raised quite frequently is the rank that the ISO should hold; is a firefighter capable of performing in this role or should it be a lieutenant, captain or a battalion chief? These all need consideration. The bottom line, however, is the person who is going to fill the role of the Incident Safety Officer must be trained!

As is the case with any position in the fire service, proper training – initial and ongoing – in service training is a must. Don't assume that any officer should have the skills, ability, and knowledge to perform the ISO tasks. Need I remind you what happens when one assumes.

In many jurisdictions, the fire services have determined that the individual filling the ISO position should have a minimum of Fire Officer I professional qualifications. In addition, the ISO has to have a solid understanding of all different types of emergency situations: fire behavior; hazardous materials; building construction and collapse; water/ice rescue; confined space and trench rescue; as well understanding the incident management system.

However, on the fireground the ISO will play a vital role in risk vs. benefit. They should be constantly observing tasks being conducted by the firefighters, and make a decision as to whether the action being performed are safe or not. If the operations are not being performed safely, the ISO needs to address this immediately. If the ISO is performing his job appropriately, he might prevent an injury.

If you work around firefighters long enough, you can pick up on some of their "bad habits" often called shortcuts. These bad habits generally can account for the firefighter injury. Keeping an open mind and a sharp eye out for them is going to work to the advantage of the ISO.

How does the ISO go about enforcement of safety violations? This is where the ISO needs to have the respect of the firefighters and this respect has to be earned. If you are not serious about safety, do not expect the membership to be. However, lead by example. If the firefighters see the ISO taking the lead and understand that it is not just a show, but the real deal, they will soon join in. Attitudes will come into play, as they often do. By having the right attitude, the ISO's job can be both satisfying and rewarding.

Baltimore County Sets Date for Hiring Examination (cont)

TESTING PROCESS

Written Examination

Applicants who meet the required job qualifications will be invited to take the written exam scheduled during the months of **September and October 2014**.

Applicants will be notified by email of the scheduled test date, time, and location of the written examination.

The written examination consists of **100 multiple-choice questions**. You will be given 2 1/2 hours to complete the written exam.

NOTE: If you do not show up to take the written exam on your scheduled test date and time, you will have to resubmit your application for this position at a later date.

Upcoming Training

EMR Refresher

Oct. 10 Midland FD
1830 hrs Fri/Sat/Sun

EMT Refresher

Oct. 18 GCC
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

F/F I*

Sept. 6 WMRTC
0830 hrs Saturdays

F/F II*

Sept. 9 GCC
1830 hrs. Tu/Th

Sept. 21 WMRTC
0830 hrs. Sundays

Haz-Mat On-Scene Incident Commander

Sept 13 Bowling Green
1030 hrs Sundays

Rescue Tech: Site Ops

Sept 4 WMRTC
1830 hrs Th/Fr/Sa/Su

Oct. 5 Eastern Garrett
0830 Sundays

Rescue Tech: Rope Rescue

Oct. 25 GCC
0830 Saturdays

Trauma Cases for EMS

Oct. 9 WMRTC
1830 Thursday

* requires Medical Clearance

www.mfri.org

**Mt. Savage/Frostburg
Cash Bash**

Saturday, October 11th

11:30 am to 6:00 pm
Mt. Savage VFD

Early Bird drawings

12:00 - 1:00 pm
(Must be present to win
Early Bird drawings)

Regular drawings

1:00 - 6:00 pm
Don't have to be present to win

Tickets: \$20/person

Guests: \$10 at the door

Grand Prize: \$3,000

ID required at the door

**Bowling Green/Ridgeley
1st Annual Cash Bash**

Saturday, Oct. 18th

1:00 - 4:30 pm
Bowling Green VFD

Doors open at 12:00 pm

\$500 Early Bird Drawing
1:00 pm

(Must be present to win
Early Bird Drawing)

Tickets:\$20.00

Grand Prize: \$1,000

Contact any member or call
(301) 729-1522 for tickets
or more information

Friendsville VFRS

Cash/Gun Bash

Saturday, October 4th

1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Doors open at 12:00 pm

Tickets: \$25.00/person

Grand Prize: Winchester Gun Safe

Orleans VFC

Upcoming Events

August 31: BBQ Chicken & Ribs
11:00 am til sold out

Sept. 21: BBQ Chicken & Ribs
11:00 am til sold out

For more information, contact any member of the
Orleans VFC



IN MEMORY

Alvin Shumaker, Northern Garrett Rescue Squad

Kenneth Fuller, Baltimore Pike VFC

Merle Winters, Cresaptown VFD Auxiliary

Don Robertson, Shaft VFD

John Means, former MSFA Trustee

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation 21:4

***** FREE *****

Dry Cleaning & Shirt Salon

1313 National Hwy
LaVale, MD 21502

(or any of their branches)

Offering
Free Dry Cleaning of
Class A Uniforms
or
Uniform Shirts

**Midland VFC
Ladies Auxiliary
Chicken Dinner**

September 9th
4:00 pm til sold out



**Oldtown VFD
Auxiliary**

**Pork Chop Dinner
Sunday, Sept 7th
12:00 pm until sold out**

**Chicken BBQ
Corriganville VFD
September 12th & 13th -
Chicken BBQ
and Block Party**

**October 3rd & 4th -
Chicken BBQ
\$7.00 gets you a half
chicken, two sides and roll.**

We Deliver!!
Just call (301) 722-7418

Spaghetti Dinner

**Good Will Fire
Company**

First Friday of
each month
4pm-6pm

Fireman's Armory
in Lonaconing



**GoodWill VFC
Gun/Cash Bash**

Saturday, Sept. 20th

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

'Coney Armory

Tickets \$25.00/person
Guests \$10.00

Grand Prize: \$2,500

Other raffles also
available day of event

**Eastern Garrett
Co. V.F.R.D.**

**Spaghetti
Dinners**

2nd Saturday
each month

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Adults: \$7.00

Children: \$3.50

Turkey Dinners

4th Sunday of:

March

April

September



**Send Us Your
Information!!**

The Bulletin is the official newsletter of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association who's business address is P.O. Box 252 Barton, MD 21521-0252. Information for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to the Editor at P.O. Box 142 Oldtown, MD 21555-0142 or emailed to drm21555@yahoo.com

WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES – TEST YOURS EVERY MONTH!

October 5 – 11, 2014

It's Fire Prevention Week — Help us sound the alarm that working smoke alarms save lives. Did you know that many people don't test their smoke alarms as often as they should? When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. You need working smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Test yours every month!

Smoke Alarms at Home

- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection. Roughly 2 out of 3 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.

Some FACTS:

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS to share with your family and neighbors:

Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.

Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.

It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.

Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.

There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.

A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.

People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Courtesy: nfpa.org