



## **Haddon Heights Fire Department**

### ***Install. Inspect. Protect.***

Emphasizes that “Smoke Alarms Save Lives.”

January 01, 2010 the Haddon Heights Fire Department will begin an aggressive campaign focused on residents and the installation, inspection and maintenance of smoke detectors. The goal of the campaign is to have one hundred percent of the residences, single family dwelling units and multiple family dwelling units protected by smoke detectors. The reason for this is that annually more than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 20,000 are injured. The Haddon Heights Fire Department (HHFD) has identified the need to establish a residential smoke detector program to ensure smoke detectors are installed in all residential occupancies in Haddon Heights. During recent fire department calls for service and during the monthly HHFD smoke detector initiative it has been discovered that there continues to be a lack of smoke detector maintenance as well as a lack of smoke detector installation in residential uses. The result of this inaction to the community is significant. First, residents who live without smoke detectors create a significant risk for both them and their families. Secondly, firefighters often suffer life threatening injuries and worse die in the line of duty trying to rescue people who did not get out at the first sign of a fire. Smoke alarms give you and your family more time to get out, before firefighters have to come in to rescue you. Many of the persons killed in

residential fires might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster.

The Haddon Heights Fire Department is committed to working with the citizens of Haddon Heights to educate and help promote all residents living and working in an environment free of fire hazards. Coupled with providing education to all who live and work in Haddon Heights in ways to stay safe and ensure early warning should there be a hostile fire within a residence or place of business. The goal of this campaign is to provide education about smoke detectors, the importance of installing and maintaining smoke detectors. The broad scope is to ensure all residential occupancies in Haddon Heights are equipped with the appropriate number of smoke detectors and ensure those smoke detectors are maintained and operational.

### **Protect Yourself and Your Family Today!**

In the event of a fire, properly installed and maintained smoke alarms will provide an early warning alarm to your household. This alarm could save your own life and those of your loved ones by providing the chance to escape.

### **Why Should My Home Have Smoke Alarms?**

In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are a very important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal -- so you and your family can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family, and your home.

### **Smoke Alarms Life-Saving Tips**

- Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside bedrooms. If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm in each bedroom.
- Check smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button. If you cannot reach the button easily, use a broom handle.
- Change the batteries in your alarms at least once a year - perhaps when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do - leave the building immediately by crawling low under the smoke - when they hear it sound.

- If cooking smoke sets off the alarm, do not disable it. Turn on the range fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm.
- Do not remove the batteries to put in other appliances such as personal stereos or games.
- Smoke alarms wear out over time. Replace yours if it is 10 years old or more.
- Keep smoke alarms clean. Dust and debris can interfere with their operation. Vacuum over and around your smoke alarm regularly.
- Smoke detector systems (hardwired smoke detectors) though powered electrically have battery backup. These are nine volt batteries which need to be changed.
- Before you begin the Holiday season hustle take five minutes and test your smoke detectors. It could save the lives of you and your family.