

NEWS RELEASE



Southern Platte Fire Protection District
8795 NW N Highway
Kansas City, MO 64153

CONTACT: Dean Cull, Fire Marshal
(816) 741-2900

Southern Platte Fire Protection District Reminds Residents to Check Their Smoke Detectors

Parkville, MO (Oct 3, 2016) It's time for Fire Prevention Week! October 9th-15th Southern Platte Fire Protection District is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to “Don’t Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years.” During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the importance of smoke detectors and teaching local residents how to check the date of their detector along with testing and replacing the batteries.

Southern Platte Fire Protection District urges all residents to find out how old their smoke alarms are, and to replace them every 10 years.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, research shows that most American homes have at least one smoke alarm, but only a small percentage of people know how old theirs are or how often they need to be replaced.

That lack of awareness is a concern for the Southern Platte Fire and NFPA, along with fire departments throughout the country, because smoke alarms don’t last forever.

“Over time, we have seen the life-saving impact smoke alarms can have in home fires, but also the tragedy that can result when smoke alarms aren’t working properly,” said Fire Chief Richard Carrizzo. “We are making a concerted effort to educate everyone about the importance of smoke detectors and that they do have an expiration date where they could become ineffective.”

NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, requires smoke alarms be replaced at least every 10 years, but because the public is generally unaware of this requirement, many homes have smoke alarms past their expiration date, placing people at increased risk, continued Chief Carrizzo.

Presently, Southern Platte Fire, in conjunction with Heart of America Metro Fire Chiefs, offers residents free smoke detectors. "Southern Platte is proud to offer this outstanding program to the residents of not just Southern Platte County, but the entire metro region," Carrizzo said. "It is important to get working smoke detectors in every living residence in the area."

The Heart of America Chiefs received a grant in the amount of \$149,400 in order to fund smoke detectors in the region. Approximately, 10,530 10-year sealed battery detectors and 192 hearing impaired detectors were purchased and still available to the public in the MARC Region.

Chief Carrizzo encourages residents in need of smoke detectors to call the Southern Platte at 816-741-2900 to receive free smoke detectors.

Fire Prevention week will end with Southern Platte Fire hosting an open house at Station #3 on October 15, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The station is located at 10811 NW 45 Highway in Parkville, MO. Visitors can tour the fire station and see the fire trucks that protect their community. Firefighters will be on hand to answer questions and provide additional information on how you can protect yourself from fire.

Fire and life safety education activities are also planned, including a fire safety trailer where visitors can learn about common fire hazards. Activities for children include a firefighter obstacle course and a house where they can use small fire hoses to put out a simulated fire.

The Southern Platte Fire Protection District's four stations provide fire suppression, inspections, emergency medical assistance, hazardous-materials response, and public education for more than 38,000 citizens in Platte County, MO. The Southern Platte Fire Protection District, which includes Parkville, Weatherby Lake, and Farley, is one of the fastest-growing areas in the Kansas City metropolitan area. In addition to serving its own District, the department provides automatic-aid assistance to the Kansas City Fire Department and Riverside Public Safety.

#