Smoke Alarms

Smoke Alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Smoke alarms are a key to early recognition, but that is its intent. This is one of the most important ways in which we can help keep ourselves, our family members, and our neighbors safe from fires. Once a fire starts, we have a very short window in which our efforts will have a positive effect on the outcome. The materials found in our homes today burn very quickly and fires can spread rapidly. Consequently, it is very important for our citizens to do everything they can to make their homes and businesses as safe as possible and the men and women of Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue are here to help you. Our message to each of you this year is to "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety". We want to make sure everyone, young and old, is aware of the sounds made by a working smoke detector and a carbon monoxide detector as well. Having both types in your home is very important. This is so important to us that we keep a small supply of detectors in our office and we are happy to install one of ours in your home or to help you install one you have purchased. We can also help with changing batteries in your currently installed detectors. Just call our Administrative offices if you need assistance.

Fire Chief Michael Schick’s Message

About Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge issued a proclamation committing the United States to the observance of Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. This proclamation was sparked by the startling number of fire deaths that had accrued in the United States in 1924, approximately 15,000 fire deaths, and the population was estimated at 114 million people. In the United States during 2017, 2,291 lives were lost in fires, the population was estimated at 325.7 million people.

During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn an easy way to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Chief Michael Schick’s Message

"What is Your Smoke Alarm Saying”

The topic of fire prevention week this year is about understanding the sounds of your smoke alarm and what needs to happen with each sound. There is always a reason why the smoke alarm speaks to you. If someone doesn’t understand what the smoke alarm is telling us it often leads to tampering or disabling of it. This sound is loud and obvious but that is its intent.

Smoke alarms are a key to early recognition and an essential part of the home fire escape plan. Fire and smoke spread fast, working smoke alarms can alert you early so you can get out quickly. 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, the United States has over 2,000 residential fire deaths annually.

Smoke alarm sounds can range from three loud beeps - beep, beep, beep - which means there is smoke or fire. “You should get out, stay out and call 9-1-1,” to a single chirp every 30 to 60 seconds which means the battery is low and needs to be replaced. If you replace the battery and it continues to chirp, it means the smoke alarm is at its end of life and needs to be replaced. All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years. When they are wired into the home, the smoke alarm also has a battery that backs up the smoke alarm and needs to be replaced every year. There should be a smoke alarm installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every floor. If smoke alarms are interconnected (wired into the home and each other) they should be replaced that way. It is best when they communicate (interconnected) with each other to notify you of a fire in an unoccupied area of your home.

People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use a bed shaker alarm. Adults may want to remember that children sometimes do not wake up to the sound of an alarm and should be prepared to assist their children during an evacuation. Remember, this month is a good time to practice your home evacuation plan.

To find out more about smoke alarms, Fire Prevention Week programs, and activities, please contact Fire Marshal Tony Miller with Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue at (541) 997-3212, tony@wlfea.org or for more general information about Fire Prevention Week and "What Your Smoke Alarm is Saying” visit www.fpw.org
**Wildfire Awareness**

The devastation from wildfires in Oregon this year have been catastrophic, a “Thank You” is in order for all the organizations involved with relief, assistance, coordination, and support. We are all in this together, it will take each and every one of us to make a difference.

Let me begin with a few stats in regard to wildfires in the United States and Oregon. Nearly 85 percent of wildfires in the U.S. are human caused; unattended campfires, debri, debris burning, equipment use & malfunction, discarded cigarettes, and intentionally set fires. These studies were based on data from 2000-2017 by Wildland Fire Management Information (WFMI) and U.S. Forest Service Research Data Archive. The number one cause of Oregon wildfires is directly related to legal and illegal debris burning.

Wildfire is a growing concern and this topic has many people concerned and even frightened. I can say with some of the higher dry temperatures in our local area we have changed fire restrictions rapidly. Monitoring these fire restrictions as they are updated can be difficult. We are updating this information as soon as possible and making it easily accessible. You can go to our website www.svfr.org to scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the fire restrictions tab. For more of a personal touch, we are also available for information by phone or an in home/site evaluation. To set up an appointment call (541) 997-3212.

Thanks

Fire Marshal

Tony Miller

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**Fire Restrictions**

During fire season, the advertised fire restrictions can be hard to follow, and keeping track of the changes can be cumbersome. Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue (SVFR) will make the information easily accessible. You can go to www.svfr.org and go to our Fire Book for fire restriction updates. The gauge at the top of the page will tell you the level we are in and the columns will give you the restrictions in place by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). The restrictions have been adopted by SVFR, and are enforced by ODF (541)-935-2322 is a recorded message with current fire danger levels. Historically, burn season is from June 15th through October 15th, this can change based on conditions. Burn season is regulated through Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAFA). You can call the outdoor burning advisory line daily during burn season at 541-997-2737 but is a recorded message.

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**ODF Western Lane - Public Use Restrictions**

**Western Lane Closure Line (541)935-2222**

Facebook: ODF Western Lane

**Debris Burning is Prohibited.**

Debris burning is not allowed during fire season.

**Smoking is Prohibited.**

Smoking is prohibited at all times in forests, except outside vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, and other designated areas.

**Use of Fireworks is Prohibited.**

**Sky Lanterns and Target Practice with tracer rounds or exploding targets are Prohibited.**

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**The Following Activities Have Various Restrictions**

- **Campfires, including charcoal fires, cooking fires, and warming fires are Restricted.** When allowed, a shovel and water source or a 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher must be readily available. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed at all times.
- ** Chainsaw use is Restricted.** When allowed, each saw being used must have one shovel and one fire extinguisher of at least 8 ounce capacity. A firewatch at least one hour is required following saw use.
- **Cutting, Gridding, and Welding of Metal is Restricted.** When allowed, the work area must be cleared of flammable materials and have either a charged hose or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher available.
- **Mowing/Cutting of Dried, Cured Grass is Restricted.** The cultivation and harvest of agricultural crops is exempt from this requirement.
- **Off-road Motorized Vehicle use is Restricted.** All vehicles, including motorcycles and all terrain vehicles, operating on unimproved roads and areas that contain flammable vegetation are restricted to the listed times. Motorized vehicle use on improved roads, free of flammable vegetation, is allowed at all times.
- **Any other spark-emitting internal combustion engine is Restricted.** When allowed, area must be cleared of flammable materials and have either a charged hose or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher available.

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Fire Marshal

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Talking Points

Talking Point Tactics

Whether you’re talking to the media, a community group, or residents, these talking points will help you stay on message with your remarks. Use these safety messages as they are, or as a starting point for a larger discussion.

Cooking

• Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.
• Thanksgiving is the leading day for fires involving cooking equipment.
• The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
• Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
• If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.
• Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it's cool.
• Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
• Loose clothing can hang down onto stove burners and catch fire. Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
• Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Smoke Alarms

• Smoke alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire.
• Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.
• Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
• Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
• Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCTOBER 3-9, 2021
AWARENESS • SAFETY • PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION
VOLUNTEER & PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

THREE RIVERS CASINO RESORT
Jerry Ward
Lieutenant
5647 Highway 126 • 541-997-7529

Saw Shop Florence
Shannon Curry
Lieutenant
1550 6th Street • 541-997-2653

Florence In Bloom
Liz Bush labichello
Retired Captain
1234 Rhododendron Dr • 541-997-5391

HECETA SELF STORAGE
Cris Holden
Captain
87632 Hwy 101 • 541-997-9702

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ACTION #1
Make the first Saturday of each month “Smoke Alarm Saturday”!
A working smoke alarm will clue you in that there is a fire and you need to escape. Fire moves fast.
You and your family could have only minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test all of your smoke alarms by pushing the test button. If it makes a loud beep, beep, beep sound, you know it’s working. If there is no sound or the sound is low, it’s time to replace the battery.
- If the smoke alarm is older than 10 years old, you need to replace the whole unit.
- If your smoke alarm makes a “chirp,” that means it needs a new battery. Change the battery right away.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the alarm and what to do when it sounds. (See ACTION #2.)

ACTION #2
Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year!
Having a home fire escape plan will make sure everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds so they can get out safely.

- Draw a map of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure they are part of the plan.
- Make sure all escape routes are clear and that doors and windows open easily.
- Pick an outside meeting place (something permanent like a neighbor’s house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) that is a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet.
- Everyone in the home should know the fire department’s emergency number and how to call once they are safely outside.
- Practice! Practice! Practice day and nighttime home fire drills. Share your home escape plans with overnight guests.

REMEMBER:
When You Hear a Beep, Get On Your Feet!
Get out and stay out. Call 9-1-1 from your outside meeting place.

Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!
A chirping alarm needs attention. Replace the batteries or the entire alarm if it is older than 10 years old. If you don’t remember how old it is, replace it.
Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- PRACTICE using different ways out.
- TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can’t help them.
- CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT: Never go back inside for people or pets.
- If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- CALL the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- According to an NFPA survey, only one of every three American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- While 71% of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only 47% of those have practiced it.
- One-third of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.
Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely in the home, heating and cooking equipment that burns fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. 

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside every sleeping area, and on every floor of the home. For the best protection, interconnected alarms on every level of the home should be activated.
- The fire alarm system has many parts that work together to detect smoke and fire. They will warn residents of danger.

**K K K**

Everyone in the building should know where to find the nearest one is blocked.

If there is a fire, pull the manual fire alarm box (alarm boxes on the floor). If the fire alarm sounds feel the window by waving a flashlight or around the door with towels or tape. Keep the door closed. Cover cracks in case you are not able to get out of the building.

What is your alarm telling you?

- A single “chirp” every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- A continued set of three loud beeps—beep, beep, beep—means the batteries need replacing.
- A single “chirp” once every 30 or 60 seconds means the alarm is functioning properly.
- A single “chirp” every 30 or 60 seconds means the alarm is not functioning properly and needs to be replaced.

Smoke Alarms at Home

**F A C T S**

- A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time of by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.

In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 100,800 non- fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.

**F A C T S**

- The fire alarm system has many parts that work together. Some of the parts are out of sight. In a fire, detectors sense smoke and activate the fire alarm. Manual fire alarm boxes allow people to turn off the alarm system. The fire alarm system activates it will warn residents of danger.

In every building the building manager should know where to find the nearest manual fire alarm. The fire alarm system will warn the person in the building.

If there is a fire, the manual fire alarm box handle on your way out of the building.

When the system senses smoke or fire, a loud horn or tone will sound. Everyone must know what this sound means and how to react.

Smoke Alarms

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 react quickly.

**S E A T Y T I P S**

- Ultra-low air may cause injury to pregnant women.
- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping area and on every floor of the home. Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- Smoke alarms are interconnected smoke alarms.
- Smoke alarms work when the entire home is not completely full.
- Smoke detectors can be smoke alarms or carbon monoxide alarms.
- Smoke detectors are positioned to warn you of smoke, fire, or both.
- Smoke alarms will not detect carbon monoxide.
- Smoke alarms are important, but do not depend on them alone.

Smoke alarms are required in all new homes. They should also be installed in every sleeping area and on every floor of the home. Large homes may need extra smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are interconnected smoke alarms. Some smoke alarms sound, they all sound.

Smoke detectors should be positioned to warn you of smoke, fire, or both. Smoke alarms are positioned to warn you of smoke, fire, or both. Smoke alarms will not detect carbon monoxide.

Smoke alarms should be installed in every location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage. Open the flue for adequate circulation. When using a fireplace, please be aware that CO alarms are present.

Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for placement and use.

**F A C T S**

- Carbon monoxide is a deadly poison. It is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. It can kill you in minutes.
- Carbon monoxide is created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely in the home, heating and cooking equipment that burns fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

**F A C T S**

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A single “chirp” every 30 or 60 seconds means the alarm is not functioning properly and needs to be replaced.

Replace all of those alarms that are 10 years old or more.
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