



Dale A. Petry, Director  
C.W. Sigman, Deputy Director

407 VIRGINIA STREET, EAST  
P.O. Box 3627  
CHARLESTON, WV 25336  
Office: (304) 357-0966  
Fax: (304) 357-0788  
[www.kanawha.us](http://www.kanawha.us)

For immediate release **OCTOBER 2014**

**KANAWHA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ENCOURAGES  
WEST VIRGINIANS  
TO TAKE PART IN FIRE PREVENTION WEEK  
OCTOBER 5-11, 2014**

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!"

Figures from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show that working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths happened in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"Smart fire prevention practices are critical to the safety of our state, our neighborhoods and our own homes," Gov. Tomblin said. "Fire Prevention Week gives us the opportunity to spread the word and support our local volunteers and community members who dedicate their time to support fire prevention awareness. By working together, we can continue the conversation about fire prevention and help keep West Virginia safe."

"In any fire, even a few seconds make a difference," said State Fire Marshal Anthony Carrico. "Approximately half of residential fire deaths result from fires that happen at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., and the average person is normally sleeping during these hours. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads. This gives people time to be alerted and get out."

**Page 2: Fire Prevention Week 2014**

**Some life-saving tips from the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office and the NFPA for you and your family:**

- **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.**

**How to be prepared:**

- **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.**
- **If the smoke alarm sounds,** get out and stay out. **Never** go back inside for people, pets or personal belongings.
- Call the fire department from **outside** your home.

**To learn more about "Fire Prevention Week— Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours**