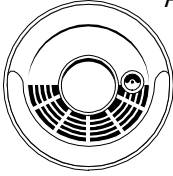


FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Each year, approximately 5,000 people die and 28,000 people are seriously injured in fires across this country. In Michigan alone, there were **166 deaths last year and 66 so far this year through August**. The truly tragic part of these deaths is that **53% of the residences with fatal fires had no working smoke alarms**. There has also been an alarming rise in the number of fires started by candles. Over the last decade, the numbers have tripled nationally.



A working smoke alarm is the easiest and most effective thing you can do to help your family survive a fire. Because most fatal fires occur during the night while people are asleep, there should be a minimum of one alarm outside each bedroom door. If possible, you should also have one on every level of your home. These should be checked at least once a month for proper operation by pushing the test buttons. Batteries should be changed twice a year. A good time to remember to replace your batteries is when you adjust your clocks for daylight savings time in the spring and fall. Never re-use the batteries for anything else such as games or toys. Batteries may be recycled by bringing them to the Annual Newaygo County Household Hazardous Waste Collection day.



Signs displaying the use of oxygen for medical reasons are also very important. With such signs in place, firefighters know what to expect in a fire emergency. They also alert anyone else who visits the home to not smoke inside.

Your entire family should help develop and practice a home escape plan. This should include two exits from each room and a safe meeting place once everyone is outside. **Once you are out, STAY OUT!** Go to a neighbor's home to use the phone to contact 9-1-1. **ESCAPE FIRST, THEN CALL!** For more information on fire safety contact the Fremont Fire Department at 924-2103. ★