

News Release

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Contact: Dawn Johnson, Public Information Officer

Fire Prevention Week: a focus on smoke alarms

It's Fire Prevention Week and this year's campaign is "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With." According to the National Fire Protection Association, smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. But they must be working properly to do so. National data shows that many homes have smoke alarms with missing, disconnected or dead batteries.

"Many homes in Fire District 6 may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms that are not working," says Fire Chief Jerry Green. "We want residents to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home, on every level (including the basement), outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. And, if a smoke alarm is 10 years old or older, it needs to be replaced."

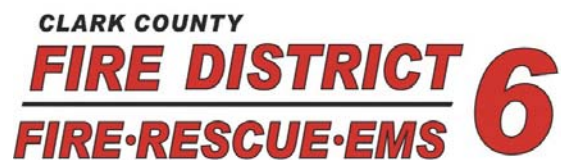
Fire District 6 will present fire prevention messages to every kindergarten and first grade class in the District during the month of October- that's over 2,000 kids! On October 13th, the Hazel Dell/Salmon Creek Business Association and Fire District 6 will recognize the winners of this year's "Fire Prevention Poster Contest." Also, on October 23rd, Fire District 6, the Salmon Creek Lions, and Juvenile Justice will install batteries and new smoke alarms in homes of low-income and senior citizens.

Fire District 6 offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound
- If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they're 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested
- Never remove or disable a smoke alarm

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To find out more about smoke alarms and fire prevention visit the Fire District 6 website, www.ccf6.org.

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