



NEWS *from* STATE FIRE

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL
NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services

David A. Paterson, Governor

Floyd A. Madison, State Fire Administrator

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GOVERNOR PATERSON ISSUES PROCLAMATION ANNOUNCING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IN NEW YORK STATE

This year's theme: "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!"

State Fire Administrator Floyd A. Madison today announced that Governor David A. Paterson has issued a proclamation declaring this Sunday, October 3, through Saturday, October 9, as Fire Prevention Week in New York State. The national theme this year is "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!"

In his proclamation, Governor Paterson said, "Taking preventative measures to avoid the outbreak of fire is the wisest and safest course of action. I strongly encourage all New Yorkers to take steps to increase their personal safety from fire by installing one or more smoke alarms in their homes."

State Fire Administrator Madison said, "Most fire deaths are caused by smoke, not flames. And the majority of fire deaths and injuries occur at night while victims are asleep. The earlier you are alerted to a fire, the more likely it is that you will get out in time. Smoke alarms will not prevent fires, but they will increase your chances of getting out alive."

The Governor and the State Fire Administrator encouraged all New Yorkers to take an active role in fire prevention and offered the following fire safety tips:

- Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and in every bedroom.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Vacuum alarms monthly to remove dust and cobwebs.
- Replace old alarms. Smoke alarms 10 years old and older need to be replaced.
- Alarms should never be disconnected and batteries should never be removed for other uses.

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“Working smoke alarms are an important household fixture that may prevent the tragedy of a home fire death. However, it is still important to plan and practice home fire escape plans with all family members,” Madison said.

The State Fire Administrator also urged all fire departments to redouble their efforts related to raising the public consciousness of the importance of working smoke alarms.

“Whether it is through smoke detector installation programs, neighborhood canvass, signs in front of the station or local public awareness announcements on the radio and TV, the fire service must use every tool at its disposal to help ensure that the public clearly understands this vital message,” Madison said. “Smoke alarms cannot save you if they aren’t working.”

About Fire Prevention Week:

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week, visit:

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/firewww.html>

To view Governor Paterson’s proclamation, visit:

www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/pdfs/proclamations/FirePreventionWeek2010.pdf

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