



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 09/20/10

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Smoke Alarms: Up, Down and All Around
North Metro Fire Rescue Reinforces Newer Smoke Alarm Recommendations
during Fire Prevention Week, October 3-9, 2010

Broomfield/Northglenn, CO – In an effort to better educate communities throughout the U.S. about smoke alarm recommendations, North Metro Fire Rescue District and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is promoting “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!” as the theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 3-9, 2010.

“Many homes in Broomfield and Northglenn may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms that are not working,” says Joe Bruce, Fire Chief of North Metro Fire Rescue District. “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.”

According to North Metro, smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. NFPA statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. But they must be working properly to do so. The association’s data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren’t working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

North Metro Fire Rescue will be hosting activities at Flat Iron Crossing in Broomfield and EB Rains Park in Northglenn around Fire Prevention Week. Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the power of smoke alarms, newer options for installing and maintaining them properly, and ultimately, how to better protect their loved ones from fire.

“Most people have a sense of complacency about smoke alarms because they already have one in their homes. Fire Prevention Week provides an excellent opportunity to re-educate people about smoke alarms, new technologies and expanded options for installation and maintenance,” says Judy Comoletti,

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division manager for NFPA public education. “Ultimately, we want this year’s campaign to serve as a call to action for households nationwide to inspect their homes to ensure that their families have the full smoke alarm protection that’s recommended.”

North Metro Fire Rescue District 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.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Broomfield and Northglenn please contact the Life Safety Educators at (720) 887-0404 or visit www.northmetrofire.org.

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About North Metro Fire Rescue District

North Metro Fire Rescue is dedicated to your quality care. North Metro Fire Rescue provides fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and rescue services to our community. Formed in 1946, the district now covers 63 square miles with a population of approximately 103,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Boulder, Adams and Jefferson Counties.