

NH State Fire Marshal's Office



K9 Pal

K9 Molly

Safety Educator



IT'S FIRE PREVENTION WEEK!



What is Fire Prevention Week (FPW)?



This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, **"Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years,"** represents the final year of the NFPA's 3-year effort to educate the public about basic but essential elements of smoke alarm safety.

Why does the NFPA, and the NH State Fire Marshal's Office, focus on smoke alarms three years in a row? Because NFPA's survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced. As a result of these findings, we're addressing smoke alarm replacement this year with a focus on these key messages:

- **Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.**
- **Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.**
- **To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.**

The State of New Hampshire uses Fire Prevention Week as a kick off to a year long campaign to remind citizens to keep their family and homes safer by checking the date and replacing smoke alarms every 10 years.



[Click to watch video](#)

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OCTOBER: Change Your Batteries in Smoke and CO Alarms



Garrett Howard from Hills Garrison Elementary School in Hudson, reminds us during the month of October to:

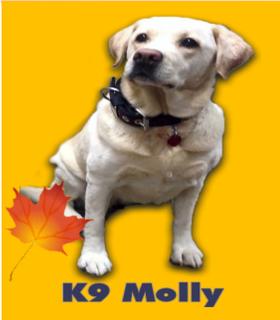
1. Change batteries in smoke alarms or if something catches fire {in your home} you might not know.
2. Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Thank you Garrett for your important safety message!

Click the **MOLLY** button to learn more about the 3rd grade calendar contest!



Molly's Minute Reminders



SMOKE ALARMS IN THE HOME

Hey Kids! **K9 MOLLY** here and I have some really important information for you to share with your family, relatives, neighbors and friends. We **NEED** to make sure everyone knows what a smoke alarm is, where they belong in every home and that they are working. Please help me spread this safety information.

WHAT IS A SMOKE ALARM?

Smoke alarms are tools that can tell if there is smoke in the air. They work even if you can't smell smoke. A smoke alarm looks like a small dish or dinner plate on the ceiling of your home. Take a moment and see if you can find all the ones in your home. They should be in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area and on every level of the home, even the basement.

WHAT NOISE DOES A SMOKE ALARM MAKE?

A smoke alarm makes a very loud beeping noise to warn you that a fire has started. Ask a grown up in the home to test it now so everyone can hear what it sounds like.

HOW DO WE TEST TO SEE IF A SMOKE ALARM IS WORKING?

- ♥ Smoke alarms should be maintained according to manufacturer's instructions.
- ♥ Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- ♥ Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working well. The instructions are included in the package or can be found on the internet.
- ♥ Smoke alarms with non-replaceable 10-year batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- ♥ Smoke alarms with any other type of battery need a new battery at least once a year. If that alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away. Smoke Alarms need to be replaced every 10 years.
- ♥ When replacing a battery, follow the manufacturer's list of batteries on the back of the alarm or manufacturer's instructions. Manufacturer's instructions are specific to the batteries (brand and model) that must be used. The smoke alarm may not work properly if a different kind of battery is used.



WHAT IS THE BEST SMOKE ALARM FOR MY HOME?

There are two kinds of smoke alarms.

- ▶ **Ionization Smoke Alarms** are typically quicker to warn about flaming fires, such as a pan fire.
- ▶ **Photoelectric Smoke Alarms** are typically quicker to warn about smoldering fires, as would occur when a lit cigarette is dropped on a sofa.

Combination Smoke Alarms provide ionization and photoelectric detection. The NH State Fire Marshal, your local fire department, as well as the NFPA recommend installing combination alarms, or both types of alarms, in your home. Whatever type of smoke alarms you choose, make sure they bear the mark [Learn More](#)

Are smoke alarms available for the hard-of-hearing or deaf?



Smoke Alarms for the Hard-of-Hearing or Deaf are available. Learn about the various options that are available.

[Learn More](#)



PAL'S POINTS

K9 PAL REMINDS YOU WHERE TO PLACE SMOKE ALARMS IN YOUR HOME

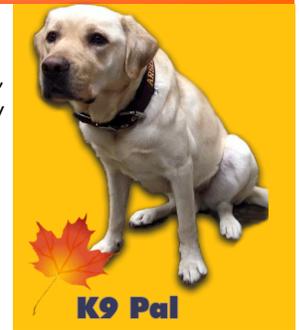
 Smoke Alarms should be in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home, INCLUDING the basement. Larger homes may require additional alarms.

 For best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one smoke alarm sounds, they ALL sound. It is especially important to have interconnected alarms if you sleep with the doors closed.

 Smoke Alarms should be installed at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance. Use a photoelectric alarm if the alarm is going to be between 10 and 20 feet from a cooking appliance.

 If cooking fumes set off alarms, either replace the alarm with one that has the "hush" button, which will silence the alarm for a short period of time, OR install a photoelectric type of alarm.

 When installing a smoke alarm, follow the instructions that come with the alarm.



[Learn More](#)

WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS: Three Steps to Safety

Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound and understands what to do when they hear a smoke alarm. Being prepared for home emergencies can help lessen fears and anxieties before, during and after an emergency. K9 PAL strongly encourages families to include children in home emergency planning conversations in advance of potential disasters. Include these topics as part of your planning. Need help or have a question? Please contact your local fire department.

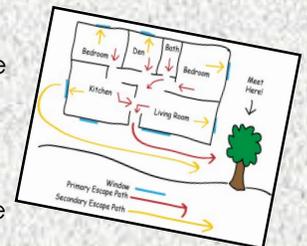
FIRST STEP: HAVE TWO WAYS OUT OF EVERY ROOM



Every room should have two ways out. One way out would be the **door** and the second way out may be a **window**. If your first way out is blocked by fire or smoke you should use your second way out. Emergency escape from a second story window may involve using a home fire safety ladder. If your escape plan includes an escape ladder, practice using it from a first floor window with a grown-up. Now that your family has created two ways out of every room and made sure that all doors and windows leading outside can easily open, it is time to create your **ESCAPE PLAN** and **MEETING PLACE**.

SECOND STEP: ESCAPE PLAN

Click to get your —> [Escape Plan Directions and Map](#) to print and create. Once complete place on your fridge!



[Learn More](#)

THIRD STEP: MEETING PLACE

Pick a safe meeting place outside. It should be in FRONT of the home. It should be a safe distance from the home like a light pole, mailbox or neighbor's house.

Agree that everyone will **meet at the meeting place**.

Make sure your **house number can be seen** from the street.

Create and **practice your plan** with everyone in your home as well as those visiting overnight.

Learn the emergency phone number **9-1-1** as well as the one for your local fire department.

Practice your home fire escape drill **OFTEN!**



K9 MOLLY & K9 PAL EVENT LOOKOUT!



We want you to keep an eye out for K9 MOLLY and K9 PAL as they love to attend events and show you how they work and train. Send us your photo with one of these canines and we'll send you a special gift just from them!





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Message from Fire Marshal Degnan:

This month Governor Hassan, myself, fire departments throughout the State of New Hampshire, as well as across the country, have declared October 9th-15th as Fire Prevention Week. This year's FPW theme is, "**Don't Wait-Check the Date. Replace Your Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years.**" This dedicated week provides educators with the ideal opportunity to educate you about the importance of having working smoke alarms that are replaced every 10 years. Not only is your family's health and safety important, but so is the health of your smoke alarm! By ensuring that your home smoke alarms are properly placed throughout the home; are well maintained by being properly cleaned of dust particles; the batteries are changed on Nov 2nd when we change our clocks back; smoke alarms are replaced every 10 years you can ensure that your family is safe and will take home fire and life safety as a priority. Should you not know how old your smoke alarm is, I highly encourage you to replace them immediately. When it comes to the safety of you, your home and visitors one can never be too safe. Please take a moment to read through this newsletter. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office.



J. William Degnan

J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



STUDENT & PARENT Approved Websites

K9 MOLLY and K9 PAL encourage students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play, however we dogs understand that sometimes the weather just doesn't cooperate. So, when it comes to computer time, try one of these family fun fire and life safety websites. Just click a picture below to open the links and play. Have fun and be safe!



Find Us on the Web:

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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