



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Don’t Wait! Check the Date!” **National Fire Prevention Week**

Baton Rouge, LA – What do milk, bread, eggs, and smoke alarms have in common? The answer is that they each have expiration dates. Consumption or usage of these items after an expiration date exposes people to potential sickness and even death.

Expiration dates are crucial information and are intended to provide consumers with a known time limit during which the product is safe to eat or utilize.

The same is true when it comes to smoke alarms, which is why the Louisiana State Fire Marshal’s Office, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), announces that the theme for National Fire Prevention Week (October 9 – 15, 2016) is *“Don’t Wait! Check the Date!”* on smoke alarms.

The value of these life-saving devices cannot be overstated. In fact, the NFPA reports that people are twice as likely to die in homes that have no working smoke alarms, which is why it is crucial for Louisiana residents to make sure that the smoke alarms in their homes are not older than 10 years.

Why? Because the failure rate in smoke alarms increases as they get older, which is why they should be replaced after 10 years.

To check the date on smoke alarms installed in your home, simply remove the device from the wall and/or ceiling and look for the manufacture date on the back. If the date is older than 10 years, replace the alarm with a new one. If not, then place the alarm back on the wall and/or ceiling.

And don’t forget to test the smoke alarm every month by pushing the test button.

For more information about smoke alarms or Fire Prevention Week, you can visit the websites of the U.S. Fire Administration (www.usfa.fema.gov; www.firepreventionweek.org).

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Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years

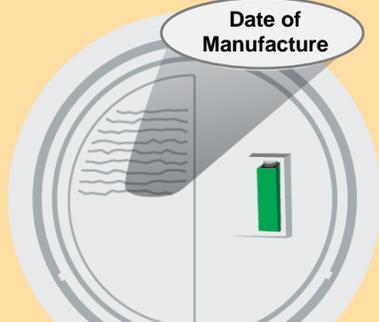


Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 9-15, 2016

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and firepreventionweek.org.



Louisiana Office of
State Fire Marshal

U.S. Fire
Administration



FEMA

