



Travis County Fire Marshal's Office

Hershel Lee, Fire Marshal
P. O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-4621, fax (512) 854-6471

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Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm

During this year's National Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office is encouraging the public to "Hear the beep where you sleep. Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm!"

"With a working smoke alarm in every bedroom, each occupant of a burning residence has a better chance of hearing the smoke alarm sooner," said Travis County Fire Marshal Hershel Lee. "This added safety measure gives residents more time to safely escape a fire."

Lee also reminds homeowners that a few simple steps increase fire survivability. First, test smoke alarm batteries monthly by simply pressing the test button. A single chirping noise or a continuous chirp with the test button pressed indicates the alarm is working. Second, replace batteries annually, and completely replace smoke alarms every 10 years or before 10 years, if they malfunction.

The Fire Marshal's Office also recommends installing smoke alarms in the common area outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home. (Alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.) Developing and practicing a home fire escape plan with all members of the family or residence also helps to increase fire survival chances.

In 2013, home fires killed more than 2,700 people in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association, and fire departments responded to 369,500 home fires. Unfortunately, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. When smoke alarms should have operated but did not, the cause was usually because batteries were missing, disconnected or dead.

For more information, please visit the National Fire Protection Association website at:
www.firepreventionweek.org.

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Submitted by: Travis County Emergency Services PIO Lisa Block, 512-854-7954.