

Memo



Fire Station 43
1262 Cypress St.
Simi Valley, CA 93063
(805) 578-2060

TO: Hopetown residents

Date: 12-2-2010

FROM: Capt. Ken Bates

Subject: Smoke Detector Problems within Hopetown tracts

The Ventura County Fire Department has noted a recent increase in the number of Smoke detectors alarms within the Hopetown area. West Venture and Kaufmann & Braud homes where built with hard wired 120v AC smoke detectors. These homes are almost 15 years old, and the original Smoke Detectors should now be replaced.

Please review the following information on smoke detectors in the home. If you need further information, please contact Fire Station 43 at 578-2060

Change your battery, save your life

A simple battery may be the difference between life and death. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are proven lifesavers, but they won't work without a good battery.

Smoke detectors save lives, but because they are an early-warning device, they can help save property, too, by allowing firefighters to respond to a fire earlier. Changing your batteries is important, but there are other ways to make sure your smoke alarm is working efficiently:

- Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years; aging smoke alarms aren't as reliable and may give you "nuisance" alarms.
- Test units at least once a month. Use the "test" button on the device or an approved smoke substitute, *never* use an open flame.
- Periodically clean your smoke alarms (follow the manufacturer's instructions).
- Place smoke alarms outside each sleeping area and on each level of your home, including the basement. An alarm in the garage is a good idea as well.
- Make sure everyone in the house knows the sound the alarm makes and what to do if they hear it.
- Have an escape plan for your home and designate a meeting place outside the home to account for family members in the event of an emergency.
- Never paint a smoke alarm.

A fire in your home can grow and spread quickly, so having a working smoke alarm can literally mean the difference between getting out alive, or losing everything.

Please take action to assure the continued reliability of your Smoke Detectors. If you need further information, please contact Fire Station 43 at 578-2060