

Surfside Beach Fire Department Smoke Detector Program

Surfside Beach Fire Department would like to remind residents that a smoke detector is the first line of defense in saving lives. The most common cause of death during a home fire is not from the fire itself, but from the toxic smoke and gases released during a fire. These products of combustion often render victims unconscious or disoriented, leaving them unable to react, especially during the sleeping hours.

In the most recent data available, almost two-thirds of all fire related deaths in the home occur in homes with no smoke detectors or non- working smoke detectors.

The fire service has known for many years that the best way to prevent these needless deaths is for people to follow some very simple and effective fire-safety steps; equip their homes with smoke detectors inside each sleeping room, in the area outside each sleeping room and on each floor of the home. Residents should also test their smoke detectors weekly and practice exiting their home in response to a smoke detector activation. Children, the elderly and people with special needs are the most vulnerable and should practice exiting the residence.

The Surfside Beach Fire Department Smoke Detector Program is for all residents of the town no matter what your financial status. The fire department will install them for you at no cost. If you rent your home, your landlord is required by law (International Fire Code Section 907) to install a properly operating smoke detector. You and/or your landlord are responsible for maintaining the smoke detector by replacing the battery (recommended twice a year during the time we change our clocks) in your home. Should a renter have problems having their landlord put in a smoke detector, there are steps the fire department can take to get this matter resolved. The intent of the fire department is to make our citizens safe in their homes. Our goal is to have smoke detectors installed in all residences of our town.

Smoke detectors can be installed by members of the Surfside Beach Fire Department. Upon request, a home fire-safety check can be conducted at the time of installation. Trained personnel will identify hazards often unnoticed in the home which may cause a fire. In most cases, a few simple maintenance procedures can make your home safer. Personnel will also fully explain how your new smoke detector functions and how to maintain it.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact the Surfside Beach Fire Department at 843-913-6369.