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***For Immediate Release*November XX, 2017**

**Contact: Local Contact Name**Local Contact Title  
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**Time to Fall Back and Check Your Smoke Alarms!**

**Insert your town, TN, November XX, 2017** While it has been traditional to pair the end of daylight savings time with the reminder to check your smoke alarms, if your smoke alarms are hard-wired, or you have a newer model with a 10-year lithium battery, you may not need to change the batteries. However, it is always a good idea to use this reminder to test each alarm in your home. Simply press the test button on each unit, and make sure the alarm rings loud and clear. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends changing your alarms out every ten years. The date of manufacture is usually listed on the back of the alarm. If it’s time for you to get new units, now is the perfect time to do so. Make sure to record the date you changed your alarms. It will be easier to know for sure next time that it is time to do it again.

Did you know there are two types of smoke alarms available? Ionization alarms are more responsive to flaming fires, while photoelectric alarms respond more readily to smoldering fires. For best protection, NFPA recommends both technologies be used in homes. In addition to individual ionization and photoelectric alarms, combination alarms that include both technologies in a single device are available. When purchasing a smoke alarm, make sure it is manufactured by a reputable company.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. More than one-third (38 percent) of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present. The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

Smoke alarms can alert you to a fire in your home, giving you the precious time you need to escape safely.

The NFPA website has some useful tips and suggestions for using smoke alarms in ways that give the most protection in case of a fire. Following are some of these tips.

* Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
* Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
* It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
* Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
* There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use of both types of alarms in the home.
* A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
* People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.

For more information about smoke alarms, NFPA has a tip sheet that can be downloaded at http://bit.ly/1Oh5P8G.

**Insert your Department name** relies on brave women and men to volunteer their time to serve as volunteer firefighters to ensure that every call for help is answered. Men and women with almost every skill set are needed. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact **Insert your Department name at Insert website** or call **Insert your Dept. phone number**.

There are volunteer opportunities at your local volunteer fire department for citizens willing to work hard. To learn more about becoming a volunteer firefighter and joining your local volunteer fire department, please visit [www.VolunteerFireTN.org](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org).

***About the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. (TFCA)****The TFCA provides leadership to career and volunteer Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities. The TN Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) also encourages the professional advancement of the fire service to ensure and maintain greater protection of life and property from fire and natural or man-made disasters. The TFCA’s mission is to provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers, and managers of Emergency Service Organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities. More information about the TFCA is located at* [*www.tnfirechiefs.com*](http://www.tnfirechiefs.com) *.*

***About Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS)****The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association was awarded a SAFER recruitment and retention grant in 2016 and partnered with the International Association of Fire Chiefs to identify recruitment and retention goals, strategies and marketing methodologies that would benefit not only participating departments, but all fire departments in the state. 19 departmental groups, consisting of 64 departments, were selected to participate in Phase I of the program. The VWS program is also operating in Virginia through the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association and Connecticut through the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. There is also currently a National VWS effort focusing on diversity and new trainings. More information about the Tennessee VWS can be found at* [*www.VolunteerFireTN.org*](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org)*.*

*(Insert info about your department in similar format to above)*