

Firefighters install smoke/CO alarms in older homes

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Nearly 500 Edmonton families will be better protected against fires and carbon monoxide threats courtesy of Edmonton Fire Rescue's Smoke Alarm Program.

The 2016 Smoke Alarm program kicks off this weekend with firefighters and fire prevention officers installing combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in areas of the city with homes built prior to 1974. Neighbourhoods were selected based on statistical evidence showing communities that historically have a higher number of structure fires and where a working smoke alarm was not present.

"Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can save lives, as they are a family's first line of defence in an emergency," said Deputy Chief of Public Safety Russell Croome. "By installing the devices for citizens, we are ensuring that they are properly located and will function in the event of an emergency."

Previously, residents could opt to install the alarms themselves, but this will be the first year Edmonton Fire Rescue Services will personally install each device.

The Smoke Alarm Program is a partnership between Edmonton Fire Rescue Service and Edmonton Firefighters Union. The program is made possible by the corporate support of the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta (ECAA) which purchases the alarms, and Interstate Batteries which provides replacement batteries.

"We greatly value our partnership with the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta and Interstate Batteries to deliver the Smoke Alarm Program," said Croome. "This partnership gives us the opportunity to build relationships with the citizens we serve, educate them on the importance of these devices, and most importantly, ensure their homes are safe."

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services began the Smoke Alarm Program in 2007, and facilitates the initiative twice annually. In the program's nine years of existence more than 3,500 smoke alarms have been installed throughout the city. Edmonton Fire Rescue Services began installing combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in 2013.

All types of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be tested monthly and the batteries replaced on an annual basis. Alarms older than 10 years should be replaced.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/smokealarmprogram

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