



**WAYNESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**FIRE PREVENTION and LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION**  
**E-BULLETIN**

**September/ October 2010**

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Welcome to the first Waynesboro Fire Department e-bulletin. Lives and property are threatened by fire and other disasters everyday. It is our hope this bi-monthly news letter will present information on ways everyone can stay safe and be prepared in the event of an emergency. You will find sections in this bulletin about fire prevention and life safety education and about activities the fire department is presenting. Your firefighters are always ready to respond with honor, pride, and compassion.

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*About 3,500 Americans die each year in fires and about 20,000 are injured. You can stop the fire before it starts. Use this fact sheet to learn how to prevent a fire in your home and know what to do if you have a fire.*

**Fight Fire with Facts:**  
**Appliance Fire Prevention and Home Fire Safety**

**Stop an appliance fire before it starts:**

- Immediately fix appliances or lamps that sputter or spark.
- Keep appliances away from wet areas, especially in the kitchen, bathroom, basement, and garage.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, never force it into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Don't let children play near electric space heaters. Keep clothes, curtains, and other flammable items at least three (3) feet away from heaters.
- Never overload outlets or extension cords.
- Regularly check your extension cords to make sure the plastic is not worn away or coming apart at the ends and never use an extension cord as permanent wiring.
- Instead of a simple extension cord, get a laboratory-tested extension cord with built-in circuit breakers.
- Check your wiring on a regular basis. Look for outlets that don't work, light switches that are hot to the touch, and lights that flicker. This could mean there is something wrong and should be checked by an electrician.

**Be prepared for a fire:**

- One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm." A smoke alarm greatly reduces your chances of dying in a fire.
- Make and practice a home fire escape plan and set a meeting place outside. Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two (2) escape routes from their bedrooms.



**Smoke Alarms: Up, Down and All Around**  
**The Waynesboro Fire Department Reinforces Newer Smoke Alarm Recommendations**  
**during Fire Prevention Week, October 3-9, 2010**

(October 3, 2010) – In an effort to better educate communities throughout the U.S. about smoke alarm recommendations, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA ) is promoting “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!” as the theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 3-9, which Waynesboro is supporting locally. NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 88 years.

Many homes may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms that are not working. We want residents to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home, on every level (including the basement), outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. And, if a smoke alarm is 10 years old or older, it needs to be replaced.

Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. NFPA statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. But they must be working properly to do so. The association’s data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren’t working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.

“Most people have a sense of complacency about smoke alarms because they already have one in their homes. Fire Prevention Week provides an excellent opportunity to re-educate people about smoke alarms, new technologies and expanded options for installation and maintenance,” says Judy Comoletti, division manager for NFPA public education. “Ultimately, we want this year’s campaign to serve as a call to action for households nationwide to inspect their homes to ensure that their families have the full smoke alarm protection that’s recommended.”

The Waynesboro Fire Department offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.
- If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they’re 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Waynesboro, please contact the Waynesboro Fire Department at 540-942-6730. To learn more about “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!,” visit NFPA’s Web site at [www. firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) .

**The Waynesboro Fire Department will host an open house on October 10, 2010 from 1-4 pm at the fire station, 300 W. Broad St. There will be games, prizes, literature, public safety displays, refreshments and music. A day filled with Fun opportunities for all ages to learn fire and life safety education.**

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