

## Fire Prevention Week

Southern Pines Fire Department Urges Residents to Check Smoke Alarms During Fire Prevention Week: “Make Them Work for You!”

The theme for this year's event is "Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You!" Taking place October 12-16, Fire Prevention Week is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), and Southern Pines Fire Marshal Ken Skipper is excited about the focus on smoke alarms. “Smoke alarms provide crucial early warnings in case of fire giving families precious time to escape safely," he said. "However, they only work if they're properly installed, tested regularly, and maintained.”

Key Tips to Make Smoke Alarms Work for You:

1. **Install Smoke Alarms:** Ensure smoke alarms are installed inside each bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of your home.
2. **Test Monthly:** Press the test button to ensure the alarm is functioning properly. Replace batteries at least once a year, and consider using alarms with 10-year sealed batteries.
3. **Replace Alarms Every 10 Years:** Smoke alarms do not last forever. Check the date on the back of your alarms and replace them if they're more than 10 years old.
4. **Plan and Practice an Escape Route:** Have an escape plan and practice it regularly with your family. Know at least two ways out of every room.

Southern Pines Fire Department will host several public events, including fire station tours, smoke alarm demonstrations, and informational sessions at local schools. These activities aim to engage the community and raise awareness about fire safety.

Skipper urges all residents to use this week as an opportunity to check and update their smoke alarms, saying, “Make them work for you—because they truly can save lives.”

For more information on Fire Prevention Week events or to schedule a free smoke alarm check, contact the Southern Pines Fire Department at (910) 692-2720.

###

**Gerald Ostlund, Communications Specialist**



910.692.7021



visit [southernpines.net](http://southernpines.net)



[gostlund@southernpines.net](mailto:gostlund@southernpines.net)