



SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

A LETTER FROM INTERIM FIRE CHIEF ED MILLER

On the evening of Monday, Nov. 30, the Sterling Heights Fire Department responded to a single family residence for a report of smoke coming from the basement. Fortunately, the fire was quickly extinguished by our responding firefighters, and no injuries were reported.

The homeowner was asleep, but was alerted by their smoke alarm, allowing them to safely exit the home and call 911. Had the homeowner not had a functioning smoke alarm, this situation could have had a very different outcome.

In the last two years, all fires within the City that resulted in the death of a resident were in homes with no smoke alarms or non-functioning smoke alarms. In contrast, last night's tragedy was averted due to the presence of a functioning smoke alarm. Let this be a reminder to all residents of the importance of smoke alarms.

What can you do?

- Please take the time to ensure your smoke alarms are operational, check batteries and test them so your family knows the lifesaving sound of the alarm.
- Ensure your smoke alarms are less than 10 years old. If your alarm is older than 10 years, purchase a new smoke alarm with a sealed 10-year battery.
- Have an operating smoke alarm on every level of your home and in each sleeping area. If you have questions about smoke alarm locations, please visit the [**NFPA website**](#) for additional resources.

The Sterling Heights Fire Department is always available to answer your questions regarding smoke and carbon monoxide alarms as well as offer fire prevention and general lifesaving tips at 586-446-2950.