



Safety Director Bulletin

One in a series of safety bulletins from your Joint Insurance Fund

October 2016

October is Fire Prevention Month

National Fire Prevention Week is observed during the week (from Sunday to Saturday) in which October 9 falls. In the United States, the first Presidential proclamation of Fire Prevention Week was made in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge. For 2016, the National Fire Protection Association has declared the theme to be, **“Don’t Wait, Check the Date”**. Many homeowners do not realize the sensors in a smoke detector have a life expectancy of 10 years, and after 10 years the detector should be replaced.

Here is a short fire safety quiz to test your knowledge of fire prevention, fire protection, and fire safety:

1. How often should an ABC fire extinguisher in your home be replaced?

- a. 6 years
- b. 10 years
- c. Never, if not used

10 years

2. Why is Fire Prevention Week always the week of October 9th?

- a. To commemorate the Great Chicago Fire
- b. To commemorate the Great Roman Fire
- c. To commemorate the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire

Great Chicago Fire

3. True or False? Mrs. O’Leary’s cow started the Chicago Fire by kicking over a lantern in a barn?

Probably **FALSE**. Fire historians believe the fire started near the barn, but not **IN** the barn. They believe kids sneaking cigarettes behind the barn most likely started the fire.

4. Most fire deaths occur where?

- a. In motor vehicles
- b. In the home
- c. In the workplace
- d. In a place of assembly; restaurant, theater, casino, etc.

In the home

5. What age group has the greatest chance of dying in a fire in the home?

- a. Infants
- b. Pre-teen age children
- c. Young adults
- d. Adults
- e. Senior citizens

By far, the two age groups who are most likely to die in a fire at home are: Infants & Senior citizens

Fire safety is not just in the workplace. Homes – where are children and perhaps elderly parents are – represent a significant fire hazard to what and who we hold dear. Protect them by going home and doing these things tonight:

- Test your smoke detector by pushing the button. Check the date of manufacture. Replace if over 10 years old.
- Check your fire extinguisher’s date of manufacture. Replace if over 10 years old.
- Hold a fire drill with your family. Know two ways out. Know to call 9-1-1 from **OUTSIDE** the house.

Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 9-15, 2016

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

1 Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



2 Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

3 Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



4 Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and firepreventionweek.org.

U.S. Fire Administration



FEMA



NFPA is the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since 1922.