



Michael A. Nutter
Mayor

PHILADELPHIA

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Contact:
Executive Chief
Clifford Gilliam
215-686-1384



Derrick J.V. Sawyer
Fire Commissioner

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“No More Fire Deaths”-Smoke Alarm Installation Program

Philadelphia, PA: Fire Commissioner Derrick J.V. Sawyer announced that on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 12:00 p.m., Judge Renee Caldwell Hughes and volunteers from the American Red Cross will team up with the Philadelphia Fire Department (PFD) to perform free home safety surveys and install smoke alarms in the West Philadelphia section of the city. The event will kick-off at 59th & Pine Streets. Free smoke alarms will be installed in the 5900 & 6000 blocks of Addison St. as well as the 5800, 5900 & 6000 Blocks of Pine Street and Osage Avenue.

The Department, working in conjunction with the American Red Cross and the Boston Consulting Group, conducted an in depth analytical study of fire fatalities in the City of Philadelphia. This study analyzed data from the previous 5 years to determine the prevailing cause of fire fatalities within the city. From this study several risk factors that may have had an impact on fire fatalities were identified;

1. Smoke alarm presence and condition, whether absent or malfunctioning, was a significant factor identified in most Philadelphia’s fire fatalities.
2. Fires caused by electrical equipment/wiring were 1.5 times more likely to result in a fatality as compared to fires caused by cooking equipment.
3. Despite the fact that a higher number of incidents were reported during the day, most fire fatalities occurred at night.

The results of the study confirmed that the absence of properly installed and working smoke alarms increases the likelihood of a residential fire resulting in a fire fatality.

The Philadelphia Fire Department remains committed to ensuring that residents are educated on fire safety & prevention and all homes not equipped with hard-wired smoke alarms have a ten-year lithium battery powered smoke alarm installed on every level. Residents in need of smoke alarms and cannot afford them should call 311.

Fire Commissioner Sawyer wishes to remind all that Fire is Everyone’s Fight™



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