



DR. WILLIE W. HERENTON - Mayor  
KEITH L. McGEE - Chief Administrative Officer

**DIVISION OF FIRE SERVICES**  
CHIEF ALVIN D. BENSON - Director

**Fire Prevention**  
Deputy Chief Ronald E. Brown, Chief Fire Marshal

"Teamwork with Commitment to Excellence, Compassion, and Immediate Community Protection"

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2008

## SAVE YOUR LIFE . . .

# CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR!

Since January 1, 2008, the City of Memphis has experienced 13 fire fatalities. In most of these incidents, no working smoke detector was found in the home. Early notification and prompt evacuation are two of the most important life-saving factors during a fire event! The use of smoke detectors as early alarm devices, and the regular practice of home fire evacuation drills has been proven to substantially increase your chances of survival when experiencing a fire.

The City of Memphis offers installed smoke detectors and replacement batteries **FREE** of charge for homeowners who cannot afford to purchase them. Applications for the city's smoke detector program can be obtained by stopping by ANY community fire station, or by contacting the Fire Museum of Memphis at 901.320.5650. Additionally, owners of residential rental properties are **REQUIRED** to install working smoke detectors to protect all sleeping areas in **EACH** residential unit.

Smoke detectors are to be tested monthly, and must be replaced when not operating properly. Tenants in rental properties are required to perform the monthly functional tests, and are to report any malfunction to the property owner for immediate replacement. Battery operated smoke detectors should have their batteries replaced every six months. The Memphis Fire Department recommends that you **REPLACE YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES WHENEVER YOUR CLOCKS ARE CHANGED!**

### ***BE SMART and SAFE . . . MAKE SURE THAT YOU:***

- 1) HAVE WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS IN YOUR HOME.***
- 2) HAVE THE DETECTORS PROPERLY POSITIONED TO PROTECT ALL SLEEPING AREAS.***
- 3) PERFORM MONTHLY FUNCTIONAL TESTS OF ALL SMOKE DETECTORS.***
- 4) REPLACE NON-FUNCTIONING SMOKE DETECTORS IMMEDIATELY.***
- 5) PRE-PLAN YOUR ESCAPE and REGULARLY PRACTICE HOME FIRE EVACUATION DRILLS.***

***REMEMBER . . . THE LIFE THAT YOU SAVE MAY VERY WELL BE YOUR OWN!***

Fire Station Locations: [http://www.firemuseum.com/html/content\\_page.php?content\\_id=49&nav\\_id=4&](http://www.firemuseum.com/html/content_page.php?content_id=49&nav_id=4&)