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Red Cross and Town of Morristown to Offer Free Smoke Alarms, Fire Safety Information

MORRISTOWN, NJ, November 5, 2015 – As part of the American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, the Red Cross, the Town of Morristown, Morristown Fire Department, Morristown Office of Emergency Management and Morristown Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) have teamed up to help reduce the number of home fire related deaths and injuries in Morristown.

Saturday, November 7 will mark the first in a series of home fire preparedness canvassing events in Morristown. Volunteers will be going door-to-door offering free smoke alarm installation in homes that need them.

“Smoke alarms can cut the risk of death from a home fire in half,” said Steven Sarinelli, regional disaster officer, American Red Cross New Jersey Region. “We are happy to be teaming up with the Town of Morristown and the Morristown Fire Department to bring free smoke alarm installations to Morristown residents and help teach families about fire safety.”

Volunteers, who will be identifiable by their uniforms and badges, will also be distributing fire safety information and talking to families about what they can do now to be prepared should a fire break out in their home.

The Red Cross is urging everyone to take two simple steps that can save lives: check their existing smoke alarms and practice fire drills at home.

Simple Steps to Save Lives

There are several things families and individuals can do to increase their chances of surviving a fire:

- If someone doesn't have smoke alarms, install them. At a minimum, put one on every level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Local building codes vary and there may be additional requirements where someone lives.
- If someone does have alarms, test them today. If they don't work, replace them.
- Make sure that everyone in the family knows how to get out of every room and how to get out of the home in less than two minutes.
- Practice that plan. What's the household's escape time?

Last year, the Red Cross launched the Home Fire Campaign in New Jersey and across the country to reduce deaths and injuries from home fires by as much as 25 percent over the next five years. As of October 20, the Red Cross and its community partners have canvassed thousands of homes and installed more than 5,800 smoke alarms in high fire-risk areas throughout New Jersey.

The Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters each year in the United States and the vast majority of those are home fires. Throughout New Jersey, the Red Cross responded to 889 home fires last year, offering comfort to 1,820 families and providing emergency assistance to help meet immediate needs such as shelter, food and clothing, as well as referrals and mental health services as needed.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

About the American Red Cross in New Jersey

The American Red Cross provides programs and services to a population of 8.8 million in New Jersey. The Red Cross trains and mobilizes more than 5,800 volunteers who support the delivery of services throughout the state. In New Jersey, last year, the Red Cross responded to 889 local disasters, mostly home fires, helping 1,820 displaced families; collected 88,439 units of blood through blood drives and Red Cross Blood Donation Centers; provided 3,920 military family case services with emergency messages, helping families find assistance and/or get counseling and referrals; and trained 117,088 individuals with life-saving skills in preparedness, CPR, AED use, first aid and aquatics. Follow us on Twitter [@RedCrossNorthNJ](https://twitter.com/RedCrossNorthNJ) and [@RedCrossSouthNJ](https://twitter.com/RedCrossSouthNJ).

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