



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barrie Fire and Emergency Service launches *Alarmed for Life* campaign

(Barrie, ON) Does your home have working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms? Barrie Fire and Emergency Service (BFES) wants to make sure the answer is yes. Starting this week, Barrie Firefighters will be canvassing homes across the city checking smoke and CO alarms and assisting families with their home escape plans as part of the second annual *Alarmed for Life* campaign. The campaign runs until the end of October.

Last year, over 11,000 homes were visited. Of the owner-occupied homes that were inspected, 68 per cent had working alarms. No fines will be levied against homeowners without working alarms. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness and educate residents about the importance of having working smoke and CO alarms and a well-practised home escape plan.

Fire Safety Facts:

- **Working alarms are the law.** The Ontario Fire Code requires that every home have working smoke alarms on every level and working CO alarms outside of sleeping areas. If you are a landlord it is your responsibility to comply with this law. If you are a tenant it is your responsibility to notify your landlord immediately if your alarm/s is/are not working.
- **Alarms save lives.** Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep. Often, victims never wake up. A working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound an alarm to alert you, giving you precious time to escape.
- **Smoke & CO alarms expire.** If you think your alarms are more than 10 years old, replace them with new ones. Remember, you cannot replace a hard-wired smoke alarm with a battery-powered smoke alarm.
- **Test your alarms regularly.** Once a month, test your smoke alarms by pushing the alarm test button.
- **Change your clock, change your battery.** Install a new battery of the proper type at least once a year. If the low battery warning beeps, replace the battery immediately. We change our clocks each spring and fall so this is a good time to change your batteries as well.
- **Gently vacuum alarms every six months.** Dust can clog a smoke alarm, so carefully vacuum the inside of a battery powered unit using the soft bristle brush. If electrically connected, vacuum the outside vents only.
- **Have a Home Escape Plan.** Everyone must know what to do and where to go when the smoke alarm sounds. Choose a meeting place outside your home and ensure your plan includes two ways out of every room. Review the plan with everyone in your household and practise!

For more information, visit barrie.ca/FireSafety.

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