

VDFP


VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROGRAMS

Attention: 2008 Needs Assessment Survey Promotion

The first **200** fire departments that respond to the **2008 Needs Assessment Survey** this year will be eligible to receive a custom **Fire Prevention Week** brochure for their department. The electronic PDF will include your department's badge logo and contact information and will be formatted ready to print. **Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11, 2008** and the theme is **"It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!"**. This valuable custom brochure can be used to promote this year's theme with the public in your area.

Please see the example below of a customized brochure. Upon submitting your survey response, you will receive information by email about the details of obtaining your custom brochure. Only the first 200 respondents will receive this benefit. So, responding as soon as possible will help ensure that you have a chance to receive this offer.


Smoke Alarms



- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, making sure that there is an alarm outside every separate sleeping area.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm as soon as the alarm "chirps" warning that the battery is low.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm. Smoke alarms can't warn you of fire if their batteries are missing or have been disconnected.
- Don't disable smoke alarms even temporarily. If your smoke alarm is sounding "nuisance alarms," try relocating it farther from kitchens or bathrooms, where cooking fumes and steam can cause the alarm to sound.
- Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarms, following the manufacturer's instructions, can keep them working properly.
- Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace yours once every 10 years. If you can't remember how old the alarm is, then it's probably time for a new one.
- Consider installing smoke alarms with "long-life" (10-year) batteries.

Smoking Safety

- Designate a smoking area.
- Provide smokers with deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Keep smoking materials away from anything that can burn, like mattresses, bedding, and upholstered furniture.
- Choose fire-safe cigarettes.




Know the Facts

- The leading cause of fires in the home are cooking (which leads to most fires and injuries), heating equipment, and electrical. Fires caused by smoking materials and heating equipment are the leading cause of home fire deaths.
- Roughly 80 percent of U.S. fire deaths occur in the home! In 2006, U.S. fire departments responded to almost 400,000 home structure fires and home fires killed 2,580 people (on average 7 people every day).
- 12,500 fire injuries from home fires were reported to U.S. fire departments in 2006.
- 65% of reported home fire deaths occurred in homes with either no smoke alarms or no *working* smoke alarms.
- December and January are the peak months for home structure fires and deaths.

You can prevent home fires and reduce the injuries, fatalities, and property damage they cause by following some simple precautions. This brochure is filled with information about where and why most fires start and how to protect your family. Make your home a fire safe home today and every day!

Contact your local fire department to find out how you can protect your home from fire and for details on **Fire Prevention Week** activities in your area.

(703) 228-4659
www.arlingtonva.us/Fire



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It's Fire Prevention Week

PREVENT HOME FIRES

October 5-11, 2008



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