

The Portland LEADER

Portland Fire Department Smoke Alarm Program

By DEBBIE BANKS, THE PORTLAND LEADER | Feb 28, 2024

According to the Consumer Safety Product Commission, “a smoke alarm is critical for the early detection of a fire in your home and could mean the difference between life and death. Fires can occur in a variety of ways and in any room of your home. But no matter where or how, having a smoke alarm is the first key step toward your family’s safety. Every year an average of 2000 people lose their lives in residential house fires, but this can be avoided with proper use of smoke alarms and for the city of Portland there is a great program available.

According to the website for the Portland Fire Department, the program “**Get Alarmed, TN!**” is a grant-funded fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program administered by the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM). Launched in November 2012, the program distributes fire safety education materials and 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms to participating fire departments, which includes the Portland Fire Department. Smoke alarms should be placed inside and outside each bedroom/sleeping area and on every level of the home. If your home is in need of smoke alarms, we have new 10-year smoke alarms we can install for you, free of charge. These alarms have a built-in 10-year battery that does not have to be changed for the life of the alarm. We also have alarms available for the hearing impaired.”

Requirements for this program:

- Must reside within the city limits of Portland
- Own the home (not renting)
- Be in need of smoke alarms

To schedule a firefighter to install smoke alarms in your home, **complete the form on the website** or call **615-325-5649**.

According to Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal for the Portland Fire Department, Shaun Tyson, in addition to having working smoke alarms, the Portland Fire Department recommends following these other important tips to make sure your home is fire-safe:

- Always stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- Check to see that matches and lighters are kept up high in a cabinet with a childproof lock.
- Develop a home fire escape plan with two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place. Share and practice the plan with every member of the household.
- Keep portable space heaters and candles 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people, furniture, and pets.
- Always turn off portable space heaters when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Have the chimney cleaned and checked regularly.
- Do not smoke in bed.
- Make sure that all matches and ashes are cool before being thrown away.
- Make sure that extension cords are in good condition and are used to power small items only – never major appliances.