



IT'S NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK:

“Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You!”

October 6-12, 2024

This week is Fire Prevention Week in the United States. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since 1922. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, **“Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You!”** works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54 percent). Meanwhile, roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. “Smoke alarms serve as the first line of defense in a home fire, but they need to be working in order to protect people,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. “This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign helps better educate the public about simple but critical steps they can take to make sure their homes have smoke alarms in all the needed locations and that they're working properly.”

Check out these key smoke alarm safety tips and guidelines:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

If you are a student, faculty member, or staff who live on or off campus in university or privately-owned housing, these safety messages are just as applicable and important. Partnering with the Burlington Fire Department, UVM Residential Life and the Department of Emergency Management conduct fire evacuation drills in each residence hall in the fall semester. Evacuation route maps are posted by Residential Life near the door in each student room, and many other buildings on campus also have posted evacuation maps as part of an ongoing initiative to update evacuation plan resources in every UVM building on and off campus. Any member of the UVM community can take our “Evacuation Procedures” and “Fire Safety” short course modules, under the “Fire Safety & Respirator Use” section of the [UVM Risk Management & Safety online training courses page](#).



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As a general reminder, please review [UVM's Fire Safety Policy](#): "All employees, students, and visitors are required to evacuate a building when the fire alarm sounds. No person may tamper with fire protection devices, create fire hazards within or near buildings, or cause impediments to emergency egress from buildings." These are important procedures designed to keep everyone safe.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week, go to www.nfpa.org/fpw. For more information about fire and life safety initiatives at the University of Vermont, visit <https://www.uvm.edu/emergency/fire> or contact University Fire Marshal Barry Simays at firesafe@uvm.edu or (802) 656-8249.