

# Board of County Commissioners

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## Press Release

Contact: Chris Goebel  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
10 a.m. EDT, 09/27/2010

### **Smoke Alarms: Up, Down and All Around** **Camden County Fire Rescue Reinforces Newer Smoke Alarm Recommendations** **During Fire Prevention Week, October 3-9, 2010**

**Woodbine, Ga. (September 27, 2010)** – In an effort to better educate communities throughout the U.S. about smoke alarm recommendations, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is promoting “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!” as the theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 3-9, which Camden County is supporting locally. NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 88 years.

“Many homes in our community may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms that are not working,” says Chris Goebel, Fire Marshal of Camden County Fire Rescue. “We want residents to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home, on every level, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. And, if a smoke alarm is 10 years old or older, it needs to be replaced.”

According to Goebel, smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. NFPA statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. But they must be working properly to do so. The association’s data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren’t working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

[Continue...]

*“Georgia’s Coastal Community of Choice”*

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Camden County Fire Rescue will be partnering with the other local fire departments during Fire Prevention Week to promote “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!” in area schools. Through these educational events, the county’s children will learn more about the power of smoke alarms, along with several other topics relating to fire safety.

NFPA and Camden County Fire Rescue agree that interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.

“Most people have a sense of complacency about smoke alarms because they already have one in their homes. Fire Prevention Week provides an excellent opportunity to re-educate people about smoke alarms, new technologies and expanded options for installation and maintenance,” says Judy Comoletti, division manager for NFPA public education. “Ultimately, we want this year’s campaign to serve as a call to action for households nationwide to inspect their homes to ensure that their families have the full smoke alarm protection that’s recommended.”

Camden County Fire Rescue offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.
- If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they’re 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Camden County, please contact the Camden County Fire Marshal’s Office at 912-729-3911 or 912-510-4302. To learn more about “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!,” visit NFPA’s Web site at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).



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