



*Lake Toxaway Fire Rescue, Inc.*

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## General Alert

### Smoke Detectors

It's time to test and change your smoke detector batteries!!  
Fall and winter are considered "house fire season" here at the fire department.

Structure fire causes – fall/winter

Heating - #1 (27% of the structure fires we have in the fall and winter)

Cooking - #2

Incendiary/suspicious - #3

Open flame - #4 (candles, fireplace, etc.)

Clothes Dryer - #5

(data compiled from our records, FEMA, and the U.S. Fire Administration)

### Testing smoke alarms

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working well. The instructions are included in the package or can be found on the internet.
- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable 10-year batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- Smoke alarms with any other type of battery need a new battery at least once a year. If that alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- When replacing a battery, follow manufacturer's list of batteries on the back of the alarm or manufacturer's instructions. Manufacturer's instructions are specific to the batteries (brand and model) that must be used. The smoke alarm may not work properly if a different kind of battery is used.
- Change all batteries at the same time. Interconnected alarms send signals to each other and alarm simultaneously.

Carmon West, Chief -

Terry Crowe, Lieutenant -