

ST. JOHN'S FIRE DISTRICT

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Colleen Walz
Fire Chief

Citizen SAFE Program

In July 2012 the St. Johns Fire District kicked off a proactive program to help ensure the safety of the citizens and visitors in the St. Johns Fire District. Since the program started St. Johns firefighters have visited over 1200 homes, properly addressed over 400 homes, installed nearly 900 residential smoke alarms and changed out over 300 smoke alarm batteries.

The St. John's Fire District Citizen SAFE (Smoke Alarm and Fire Education) program offers free smoke alarm installations, home safety surveys, and address numbering for all residents in the St. John's Fire District. The program is conducted the first and third Saturday of each month for two hours. During the two hour time frame, firefighters from all seven stations in the St. Johns Fire District go door-to-door in selected areas to offer residential smoke alarm checks and installation, home safety surveys, and will install address numbers on residential homes and mailboxes if needed.

- Smoke alarms are essential for early warning of a fire in a home. It only takes a small amount of smoke to activate the smoke alarm. Smoke alarms, along with a home escape plan, offer the means for citizens to evacuate their home in the event of a fire.
- The free home safety survey is voluntary. Firefighters, with the permission from the resident, will conduct a safety inspection of the home and offer ways to prevent home fire before they happen. There are no fines or penalties associated with this survey and program.
- It is estimated that 40% of the homes in the St. Johns Fire District do not display residential address numbers properly. County ordinance requires that homes have address numbers displayed that are visible from the street. If the home is more than 50 feet from a roadway, the address numbers need to be displayed at the driveway entrance on a post, mail box, etc. St. John's firefighters visiting homes during the Citizen SAFE program can place numbers on the home and mail box to ensure they can locate the proper address in an emergency.

When a St. Johns Fire District crew comes to a home where there is no answer they will leave a door hanger with contact information. Citizens can send an email to c.safe@stjfd.org or call 843-768-4770 to have crews come by to install and check smoke alarms, conduct a home safety survey, and install residential address numbers.

The best of all is the program is free!