

FIRELINE



SMOKE ALARMS 101

You may have heard stories in the news lately about fire fatalities in residences with properly working smoke alarms. In one case, three little boys died of smoke inhalation last year in a house fire in Philadelphia. The children's mother had just installed smoke alarms outside the bedrooms – but none of them sounded off during a smoldering fire that sent heavy smoke throughout the house. Fire officials claim it was a tragedy that did not have to happen.

The reason: Different types of smoke alarms sometimes perform better in different types of fires.

There are two types of smoke alarms in general use for residences: photoelectric and ionization. These types of smoke alarms sense the presence of smoke differently.

The type of smoke produced by a fire depends strongly on the type of fire. Flaming fires produce a different type of smoke than smoldering fires.

USFA and Shoreline Fire recommend that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with either both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor smoke alarms.

Both types of smoke alarms will detect the smoke from either a smoldering fire or a flaming fire. It has been factually established and well known for many years that:

Ionization type smoke alarms tend to respond faster to the smoke produced by flaming fires than photoelectric type smoke alarms, and

Photoelectric type smoke alarms tend to respond faster to the smoke produced by smoldering fires than ionization type smoke alarms.

Shoreline Fire recommends that residents either have both types of alarms in their homes...or a combination model called a "dual sensor" alarm. For more information, contact Shoreline Fire's

Community Education Specialist at 206-533-6564 or melanie@shorelinefire.com.

Want to watch videos about fire safety at home? YouTube has archived news stories and demonstrations for you to watch! Go to YouTube.com and search "smoke alarms".

THE FACTS

Ninety-six percent of all homes have at least one smoke alarm. Overall, three-quarters of all U.S. homes have at least one working smoke alarm.

Sixty-five percent of reported home fire deaths in 2000-2004 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

No smoke alarms were present in 43% of the home fire deaths.

In 22% of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.

The death rate per 100 reported fires is twice as high in homes without working smoke alarms as homes with working smoke alarms.

An estimated **890 lives could be saved** each year if all homes had working smoke alarms!

Source: NFPA





ARE CAR SEATS SAFE?

National news reports recently suggested that government crash tests from 2008 may have revealed “flaws” in car seats. While the details of the tests are still unclear, one thing remains undisputed: car seats save children’s lives every day. It is critical that parents and caregivers continue to use car seats for their children.

Correctly used car seats and booster seats are extremely effective, reducing the risk of death in a crash by as much as 71 percent. And the number of children killed in crashes over the past 30 years has dropped significantly, mostly due to the widespread use of car seats and enhanced child passenger safety laws.

There are a few important things a parent can do today to make sure their child is getting the best protection when using a car seat or booster seat:

- Always use the right restraint for your child’s height, weight and developmental age.
- Read and follow the manufacturer’s instructions that came with the car seat.
- Make sure your car seat and vehicle work together. For example, the largest car seat on the market may not fit in a compact car as well as a smaller car seat. Remember all seats meet the same Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
- All children under 13 should ride in a backseat.

If you are unsure, schedule an appointment with Shoreline Fire’s certified car seat technician. Contact melanie@shorelinefire.com to see if you are eligible.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Watch for a Fall 2009 airing of a special “Forensic Files” TV show...focusing on Shoreline Fire’s role in solving a decade old murder/arson case. Pictured here are Lt. Ernie Rodriguez and Firefighters Bryan Braswell and Jason Lamar with the production crew from New York City.

SHORELINE FIREFIGHTERS DELIVER BABY BOY ON THE WAY TO HOSPITAL



Nate, Gabe and Mark with Baby Silas

At 5 a.m. on Monday February 16, Shoreline fire crews and paramedics received a 9-1-1 call from a pregnant woman reporting strong contractions and possible impending birth. They rushed to the home of Jennifer and Michael Maas. Within a few minutes they were headed to Swedish Hospital, making their way through lighter-than-usual President’s Day traffic to Seattle.

They didn’t make it fast enough. Instead the birth began as they traveled along I-5. The medic unit became a delivery room on wheels.

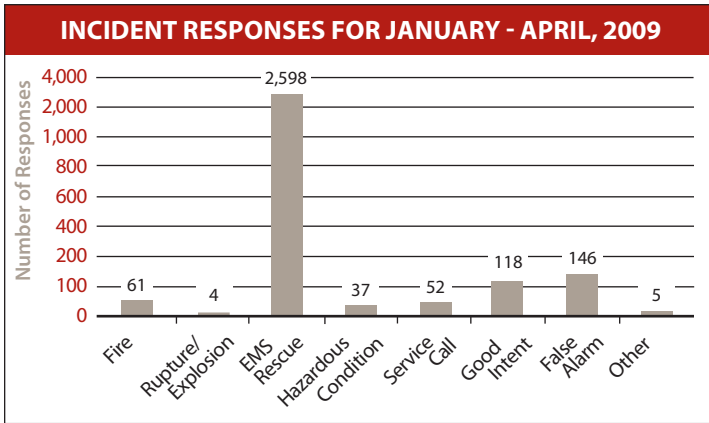
Firefighter/Paramedics Rich Stapf and Sabine Arnold, Lt. Mark Foster, and firefighters Gabe Debay and Nate Bess assisted in the birth of a 9-pound healthy baby boy named Silas.

All were delivered safely to Swedish Hospital’s birthing unit – *with the job already done!*



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Explanation of Incident Types

EMS/Rescue: medical assist, patient assist, transport, trauma injury, medical emergency, vehicle crash, etc.

Hazardous condition: gas or oil leak, combustible spills, power line down, shorted electrical equipment

Service call: water leak, flooding, smoke or odor removal, unauthorized burning.

Good intent: dispatched and cancelled en route, odor of smoke, possible person needing help, authorized controlled burning, caller is concerned but no emergency is found.

Fire: confirmed fire incidents of any size.



SAVE THE DATE!

Shoreline Fire is celebrating its 70th year of service to our citizens during 2009!

On October 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. we will have a community wide birthday party, hosted by Shoreline Central Market! It is our way of saying "thank you" to our wonderful community –and to observe Fire Prevention Month.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

We will have demonstrations, hands-on activities, free cake and coffee and lots more throughout the Central Market parking lot at Aurora Avenue and Westminster Way.

Don't miss it!