Dear Community Member,

Your fire department cares about you and your family’s safety and is committed to doing all it can to protect the community from the destruction we know fire can cause. For this reason we are inviting you to participate in a free program that will help you identify possible fire hazards in your home and provide you with free smoke alarms for early warning should a fire occur.

Teams of Manson Firefighters will be visiting homes throughout the community to install free smoke alarms and they will also conduct a fire safety survey of your home. There are two types of smoke alarms that we will be providing to you; an ionization smoke alarm which is a type of alarm that is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm which is generally more responsive to smoldering types of fires. In some instances and for the best protection, both types of alarms may be provided. Regardless of the type of smoke alarm(s) you receive, each will come with a 10 year lithium battery, making the need to change the battery each year unnecessary. However, monthly testing is still strongly recommended.

It is also important for you to know that smoke alarms like other electrical devices have a life expectancy and overtime components will break down, because we know that after 10 years a smoke alarm can lose its reliability, we strongly recommend any old smoke alarms you may already have be replaced with new ones. If you have a hard-wired system unfortunately we will not be able to change those alarms, that requires a licensed electrician, however we can add the new alarms to the same room for increased reliability.

It is easy to participate and remember it doesn’t cost you a thing! All you need to do is provide some basic contact information and in a few days a fire department representative will call you to schedule a time that works best for us to come by and provide your free smoke alarms and conduct the fire safety survey. Our entire visit to your home will typically take less than an hour.

This program is only available for a short time and made possible by a grant from the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals. Our goal is to visit over 200 homes with this life saving program. For this reason we do ask that if for any reason you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment, we would appreciate you letting us know (509-687-3222), prior to your scheduled day/time so that firefighters might be able to re-fill that time with another interested resident. We will gladly work to reschedule with you as soon as possible.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions about this program or other services your fire department provides.

For a Safer Community

Arnold Baker, Fire Chief
Chelan County Fire District 5