

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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OSFM Headquarters
1131 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
<http://osfm.fire.gov>

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

The month of October brings about a focus on fire safety and a time to reflect.

The 2015 National Fire Prevention Week runs from October 4 through October 10. A newly released National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report underscores the importance of working smoke alarms. According to "Smoke Alarms in U.S. Home Fires" from 2009 – 2013, an average of 940 deaths per year occurred in homes with no smoke alarms, and an additional 510 deaths occurred in homes where the alarm failed to operate. These striking numbers account for 59 percent of all home fire deaths. In the continued effort to get the word out about the importance of working smoke alarms, this year's fire prevention week theme is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm."



State Fire Marshal
Tonya L. Hoover

In California, state law requires the installation of a smoke alarm in every bedroom, on every level, and in the hall way leading to bedrooms in every new home built or for renovation permitting exceeding a thousand dollars. California also requires that smoke alarms be equipped with a long life battery that cannot be removed from the device. These requirements help to ensure the fire safety of our citizens. Many fire departments and community associations provide free smoke alarms and even install the device to help ensure it will be working if there is a fire. If your department or community organization provides such an important service, it is important to understand how smoke alarms operate, what type of alarm is best in which location, and where the devices should be properly installed. These facts can help reduce nuisance alarms and alarm activation delays.

October is also the month that we take a day to honor those fire service individuals that have given the ultimate sacrifice. On Saturday, October 17 hundreds will gather together to pay tribute to those individuals who gave their lives to protect their fellow Californians. Information about this year's ceremony can be found on the California Fire Foundation website at www.cafirefoundation.org. I hope that many of you can join in recognizing and honoring those individual names embossed on the wall.

It is our focus to fire safety and our desire to keep people safe from fire that drives this month. May we never forget our mission or those that sacrificed so much while supporting it.

Be safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tonya L. Hoover".

TONYA L. HOOVER
State Fire Marshal