

St. Louis Fire Department



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The St. Louis Fire Department expands “Meeting Neighbors and Saving Lives” program into two new zip codes

ST. LOUIS, MO (March 10, 2007) — The St. Louis Fire Department officially kicks off the expansion of the “Meeting Neighbors and Saving Lives” program into two new zip codes this weekend, 63112 and 63118. The expansion is being held in conjunction with the department’s semi-annual Change your Clock, Change Your Battery® neighborhood blitzes. The “Meeting Neighbors” program is a multi-year effort that will allow the department to install 10-year Lithium-based smoke alarms, distribute fire extinguishers, perform home safety surveys, design home escape plans, and offer various other life safety information to the citizens of St. Louis. “This is the largest and most widespread fire safety campaign ever undertaken by our department, and we will continue to seek other opportunities to expand”, said Fire Chief Sherman George.

Lithium smoke alarms have been around for a few years now, but have just now become more affordable. “We selected the Lithium-Based smoke alarms to address several issues that were identified during analysis of fire incident data,” stated Chief George. The issues that were identified dealt with residents disabling and not properly maintaining their smoke alarms.

This weekend, fire companies will be going door-to-door from 10 a.m. until 1p.m on Saturday and 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Sunday, if necessary, to install the 10-year smoke alarms. The department will only install regular batteries on a call-in basis. “It will take years to make the change from regular battery operated alarms to lithium alarms” stated Chief George... “Until then, we will continue to offer free battery changes.”

The first year of the program was funded through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program for Fire Prevention and Safety. The grant award was used to target the 63107, 63113, 63115, and 63120 zip codes. During that year, 4,500 lithium smoke alarms were installed and 1,500 fire extinguishers were distributed.

The next five years of the program are funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The St. Louis Fire Department was one of 15 organizations, and one of only three fire departments to receive funding for this project nationwide. This grant award will allow the program to be expanded into two additional zip codes for each year of funding, with this years funding going toward the 63112 and 63118 zip codes. Residents in the two zip codes are encouraged to call the St. Louis Fire Department to arrange for smoke alarm installations. That contact number is (314) 289-1905.

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