

# Forest Hills Neighborhood Association

## October 20, 2016

### Meeting Notes

**Attendees:** 6 Residents

**Staff Present:** Ross Zelenske, Neighborhood Liaison/City Planner; Acting Battalion Chief and three members of Engine 3 (HFD); Police MPO Lowman and MPO Vanover (HPD A-PACT)

#### **Meeting Notes:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by Gwen Belk.

Gwen Belk introduced herself as the neighborhood group leader and thanked everyone for attending. She welcomed a new member to the group, and hoped to continue to see new faces at meetings.

Master Police Officer Lowman from the Hickory Police Department introduced himself and provided the following police report:

- He stated that the Forest Hills neighborhood has been very quiet, although surrounding areas have been dealing with a few break-ins into unlocked vehicles. As always, do not leave valuables in your vehicle and lock your doors.
- Scam phone calls are still a problem. These callers target elderly and will generally ask for a money transfer or other form of untraceable payment in response to some sort of scenario that claims you or your family are in trouble. If you are targeted, do not provide them with any payments or information. Additionally, you should report it to the non-emergency Police Department number.
- The floor was then opened for questions.
  - A citizen inquired for more information regarding door to door salesmen that were spotted in Northwest Hickory last month and the permit that is required. MPO Lowman stated that the solicitor's permit is issued by the Police Department for door to door sales and is supposed to be worn around the salesperson's neck. The permit is usually orange. If you are unable to see the permit, ask for it to be presented. If they do not have one, you should politely ask them to leave and then contact the Police Department to report them in the neighborhood.

Captain Reese of Engine 3 provided the following report for the Hickory Fire Department:

- Captain Reese noted that October 9<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> was National Fire Prevention Week and provided a handout (attached) with information about smoke alarms and escape plans to go over with your family. He asked how many folks had smoke detectors in their homes. He then asked if they knew how to test them and if they had tested them recently. He noted that smoke detectors are

generally only good for about 10 years and that the batteries should be replaced every time you go to change your clocks (Spring Forward, etc.). You should also test your smoke alarm regularly, preferably every month. There is a button on the face that will sound the alarm for a few seconds to ensure it is working. You should also go over an escape plan in the event of a fire with your family. The Fire Department is able to assist with installation and obtaining smoke detectors as needed and as funds are available. Detectors should be located inside all bedrooms, outside sleeping areas (hallways, etc.), and at least one on each level of the home. Please contact the Fire and Life Safety Division for more information.

- Captain Reese did not provide call statistics for the month, but did note of a recent fire in which a smoke detector was able to alert a homeowner of a fire that could have been much worse without the warning device.
- The floor was then opened for questions.
  - Gwen Belk wanted to again say thank you to our firefighters and noted how she had kept a newspaper clipping with the names of the firefighters printed. She stated that she hoped to have the opportunity to meet and thank each of them through their various activities and presence at the neighborhood meetings.
  - Ross Zelenske inquired if the Engine crew had worked the recent commercial building fire off Old Lenoir Road. Captain Reese stated that Engine 3 did respond, but it was not during their shift.

Ross Zelenske, City Planner, provided the following information on behalf of the City of Hickory:

- Ross passed around the latest edition of the City Snippets newsletter, which included information on upcoming activities and notices. You can view the most recent newsletter on the City of Hickory's website at <http://www.hickorync.gov/content/city-snippets>.
  - He noted that this edition had some information about the leaf collection for the fall season, as well as, info about the downtown Halloween event.
- Ross stated that the Friends of Hickory Park was near completion, but the grand opening was delayed. The latest he had heard was that the park would be done and open by early November.
  - A citizen wanted to confirm the FOH Park was the one downtown. Ross said yes, adjacent to Union Square.
- City staff and AMEC Foster Wheeler, the newly hired consultant, recently held meetings related to the upcoming gateways on Highway 321 with the Gateways Subcommittee. Ross said this was an opportunity for AMEC to gather input about Hickory and what the subcommittee was hoping to achieve with these pieces. Ross noted that these pieces will be designed to be portable given the future widening of Highway 321 by NCDOT in the future.
  - A citizen inquired about what a "gateway" was. Ross responded that these are essentially welcoming art pieces along roadways into Hickory. Ross mentioned that Rock Hill, SC has an iconic gateway piece off of Interstate

77. These pieces are meant to grab folks' attention and welcome them to our city. The design of these pieces will also reflect to history of Hickory.

- AMEC Foster Wheeler was also chosen as the City Walk consultant. He stated they have been meeting with city staff to be brought up to speed on this project.
- The Riverwalk RFQ received 10 responses from qualified firms, the strongest response yet on RFQs. City staff have narrowed down the applications to three companies and are now working on interviewing those choices. Staff will make a recommendation to City Council on this item soon.
- Ross reported that the Lackey Park meetings had picked back up again. He noted that staff had been meeting with the Lackey team regularly, sometimes twice in a week. He hopes to have a more news worthy update at the next meeting.
- With no other updates, the floor was open for questions.
  - A citizen inquired about some pipes on her property that are not functioning properly and appear to be causing water runoff toward the basement of her home. She stated that she called Public Services and was told the city installed these pipes years ago, but there was nothing they could do. She inquired if Ross could look into the issue and see if the city would be able to assist. Ross agreed to look into it on her behalf.

With no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

**Next Meeting:**

November 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM at Geitner-Rotary Park. Notes recorded by Ross Zelenske.

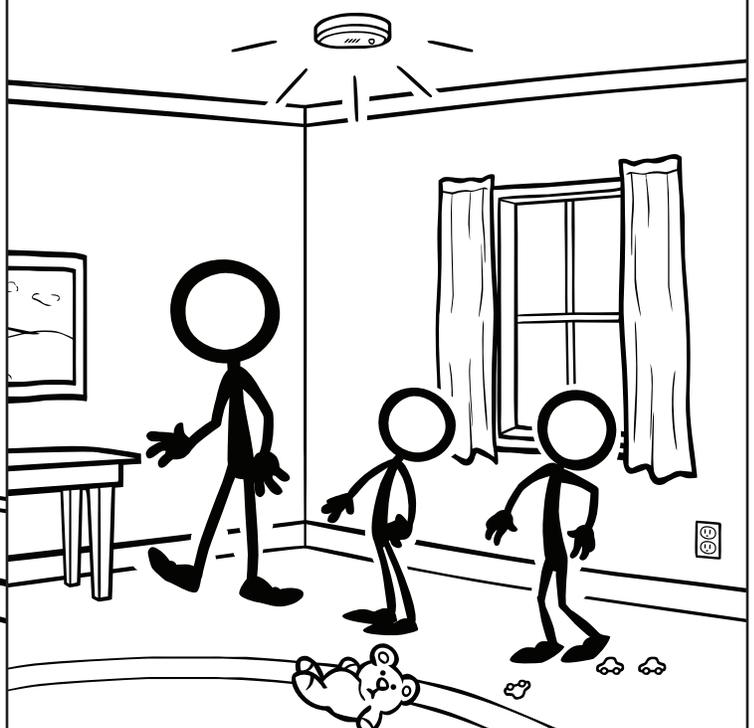


# Get to Know Smoke Alarms

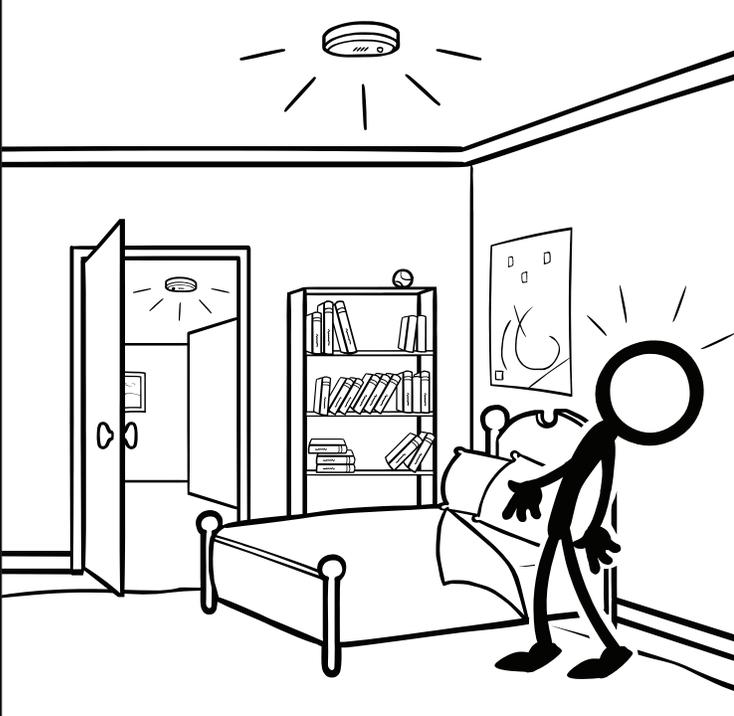
If there is a fire in your home,  
there will be smoke.



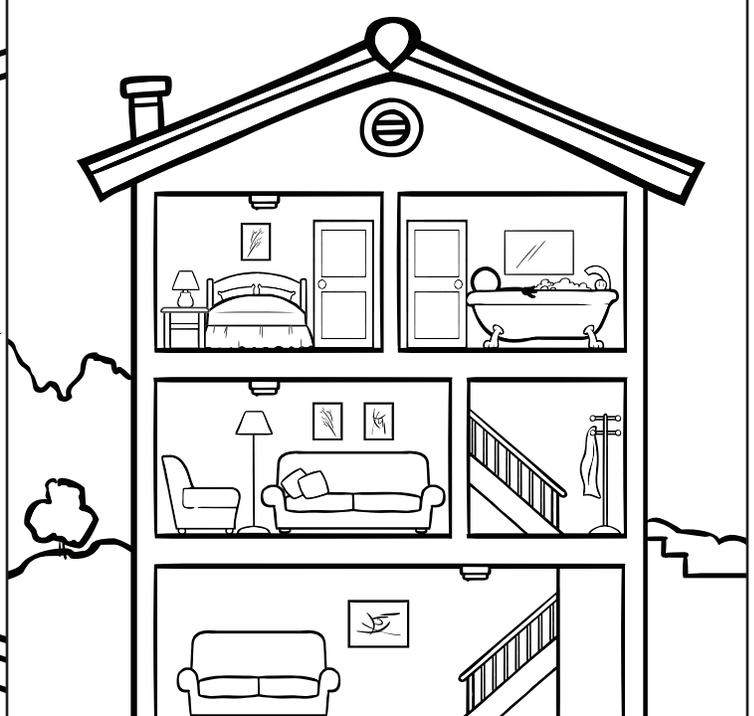
A smoke alarm will let you know  
there is a fire in your home.



You need a smoke alarm in each bedroom.  
You also need one outside each sleeping area.

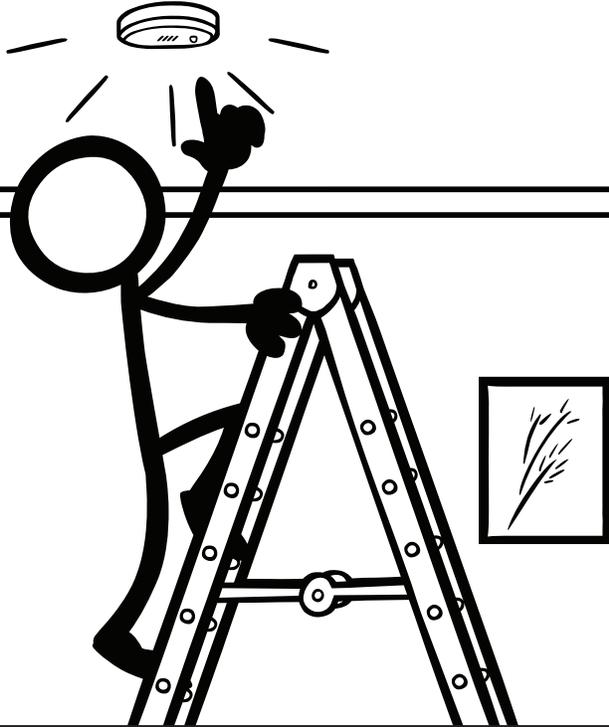


You need a smoke alarm  
on each level of your home.





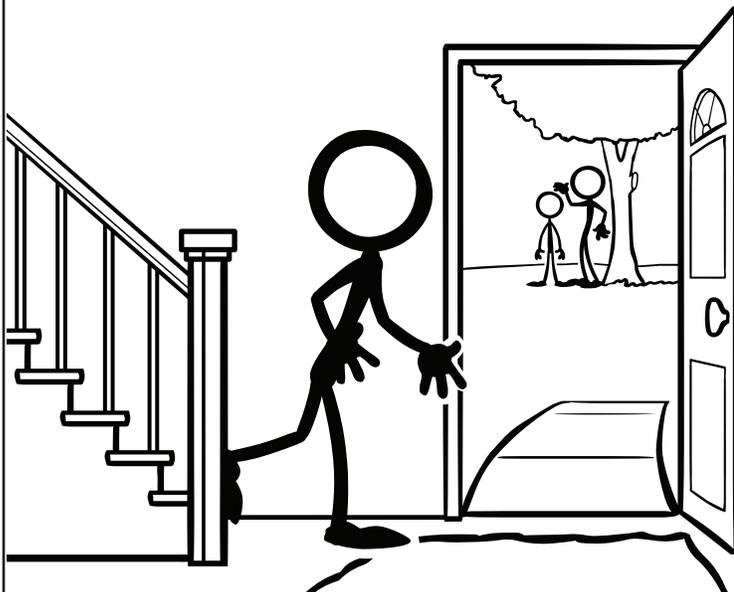
Push the test button at least once a month to make sure it is working.



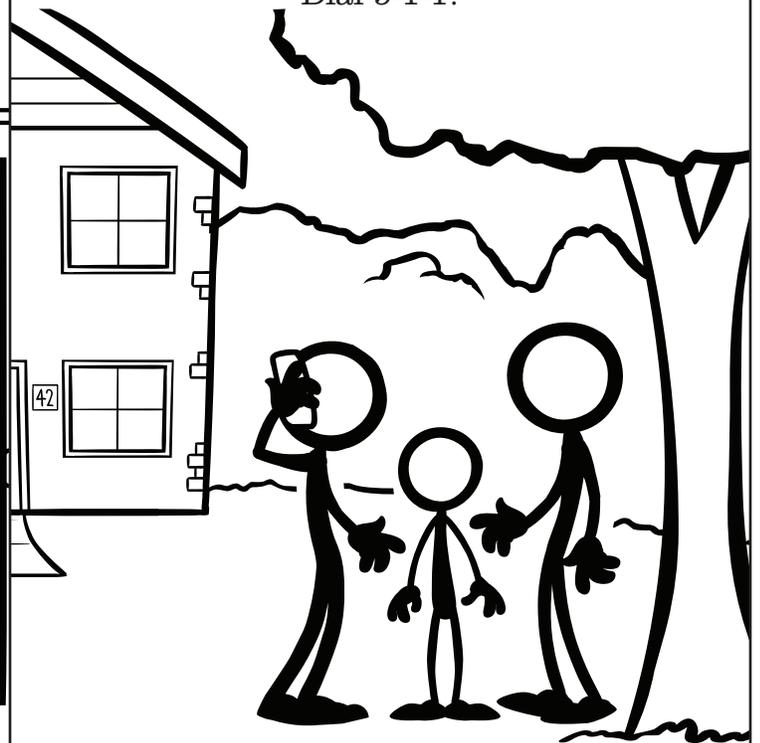
Some alarms need a new battery once a year. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside the home.



Then call the fire department.  
Dial 9-1-1.



# Mastering the 10-Minute Mini-Lesson

SAMPLE  
LESSON  
PLAN

**Topic:** Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

**Audience:** Adult Attendees of a Rotary Club Meeting

**Lesson Objective:** By the end of the mini-lesson, attendees will be able to explain 3 behaviors necessary to ensure smoke alarms can serve as life-saving devices.

## Step 1: Introduction (2–3 Minutes)

- *Before you start:* Place a chirping smoke alarm with a low battery near the podium. Do not tell your audience it has a low battery.
- Greet the participants and thank them for allowing you to speak for 10 minutes. Let them know you are happy to be there.
- Introduce yourself and share your connection to the community.
- **HOOK:** Share a brief news article about a fire in which non-working smoke alarms were in place.

Ex.) From Firewatch in the NFPA Journal, March/April 2014

PENNSYLVANIA — Smoke from a small fire killed a 93-year-old woman and an 84-year-old man, who had a mobility disability, in a bedroom in their single-family. The fire began when a worn electrical cord arced and overheated, igniting health care supplies underneath the victim's hospital bed.

The fire occurred in a single-story, wood-frame house with an asphalt shingled roof that covered an area of approximately 930 square feet (86 square meters). A single smoke alarm had been installed in the kitchen pantry, but its battery was dead. There were no sprinklers.

One of the occupants noticed the fire and called 911 at 1:18 a.m. Arriving firefighters found that the fire had burned itself out, but not before the man and woman were both exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide.

- Ask audience members how they feel about the story. Folks will likely say things like sad, frustrated, could've been prevented, etc...
- Explain the purpose of your visit: "Each year, too many people die in home fires that could have been detected by working smoke alarms. It isn't enough to install the alarms. They must also be maintained. Let's spend a few minutes today talking about how to make sure your smoke alarms can keep you safe."

## Step 2: Body of the Presentation (5–6 minutes)

- Share the following concept with the audience: (Use props and/or visuals to increase engagement)  
"A Rule to Live By: Once a month, Once a year, Once a decade"
- Inform the audience that the Once a month, Once a year, Once a decade rule will help them to keep their smoke alarms in working order.

**ASK:** In reference to smoke alarms, what does "Once a month" refer to?

- Everyone should test home smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.

## Educational Messages to Review:

### 1 Smoke Alarms

**1.3.1** Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.

**1.5.1** Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life batteries) are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.

**1.5.2** For smoke alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If that alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

**1.6.1** Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA® NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

## — Mastering the 10-Minute Mini-Lesson: **Smoke Alarms** —

**ASK:** What is the sound of a working smoke alarm?

*Beep, Beep, Beep, pause Beep, Beep, Beep*

Press the test button on a smoke alarm as a demonstration. Warn the crowd first.

**ASK:** What is your smoke alarm telling you if it “chirps”?

*The battery is low. If you have a smoke alarm with standard batteries, install a new battery when the alarm chirps. If your smoke alarm has long-life, non-replaceable batteries, you must replace the entire smoke alarm if it chirps.*

At this point, refer to the chirping smoke alarm you’ve placed near the podium if an audience member hasn’t pointed it out already. Let folks know that this is the sound that tells them the battery is low.

**ASK:** How about “**Once a year**”? What must you do once a year with your smoke alarms?

*Change the battery if your smoke alarm uses standard batteries.*

*If you have long-life, non-replaceable batteries in your smoke alarm, you can skip this step.*

- Here’s the big question! “**Once a decade!**” Ten Years!

**ASK:** What must happen “Once a decade,” every 10 years, in order to ensure you have working smoke alarms?

*Replace the smoke alarm. Smoke alarms have a shelf life. They are designed to be effective for up to 10 years. Replace all types of smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. When you install a new smoke alarm, write the date on the back of it to remind you when you will need a new one.*

### **Step 3: Conclusion** (1–2 minutes)

- Let’s review! Ask the audience members to respond in unison: When you say “What’s the Rule to Live By?” they respond with “**Once a month, Once a year, Once a decade!**” Do this a few times until you feel the group is responding energetically.
- Ask for volunteers to remind everyone what each time frame requires:
  - Once a month:** Test your smoke alarms using the test button
  - Once a year:** Change the battery if your smoke alarm uses standard batteries
  - Once a decade:** Replace the smoke alarm with a new one.
- Remind the audience that simple steps will help increase safety in the home.
- Share your contact information and encourage attendees to contact you if they have questions or concerns about other fire issues.
- Thank everyone for their time and for inviting you to speak.



# Smoke Alarms at Home

**SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART** of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



## SAFETY TIPS

- »»» Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- »»» Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- »»» It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- »»» Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- »»» There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- »»» A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- »»» People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- »»» Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

## FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ! Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ! Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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