

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Fire Prevention Week emphasizes smoke detectors *Detectors emit a 'sound you can live with'*

PROSPER (October 4, 2010) This year's edition of Fire Prevention Week, which runs from Sunday, Oct. 3 through Saturday, Oct. 9, is yet another opportunity for the Prosper Fire Department to send a vital message – check your smoke detectors, according to Firefighter/Paramedic Heath Harris.

The national theme for this year's observance is "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With." Virtually all smoke and fire detectors operate on either battery power only or use a battery as a back-up in the event house power is lost. Those batteries require changing when they near their expiration date.

"What we at first might consider an annoying chirp just might be the one sound that saves our lives and the lives of our loved ones," he said. The distinctive and persistent beeping noise is the smoke detector automatically reporting a weak or ineffective battery inside.

"To ignore that sound is to place yourself, your family and your neighborhood in danger. Fires can have devastating consequences for life and property, and replacing a battery is an extremely small price to pay for that level of protection," he added.

Throughout the year, but especially during Fire Prevention Week, the Prosper Fire Dept. strongly encourages homeowners, apartment dwellers, renters and house guests to be on the lookout for any potential fire hazards in the home, whether it's batteries needing replacements, frayed electrical wires, open flames, risks in cooking areas and children playing with matches or lighters.

"One of the easiest and least expensive defenses we can put up against the tragedy of a fire is replacing the batteries in our smoke detectors or alarms. About one-in-four fire-related deaths can be prevented with the simple act of keeping the detector in good working order," he said.

During the four-year period from 2003 to 2006, 40 percent of all home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, while 23 percent resulted from homes in which smoke alarms were present but did not operate.

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Nearly a quarter of all fire related deaths were from not properly maintaining this small but significant device.

“There is an easy way to remember when to change your batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. When you change your clocks in the spring and fall, change the battery. Safety in the home is paramount, and the simple act of changing a battery can mean the difference between life and death,” concluded Harris.

The Prosper Fire Department will provide assistance for any resident with questions or concerns related to smoke detectors, developing an escape plan and other fire safety issues. Contact the PFD at 972-347-2424 or visit [www.prosperfire.com](http://www.prosperfire.com).

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**ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER** – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 9,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 90,000 residents, Prosper’s vision is to remain a “Place Where Everyone Matters.”