



Press Release

Press release from **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service** and **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority**
Making Derbyshire Safer

12 JANUARY 2016

SMOKE ALARMS – THE UNSUNG HEROES PROTECTING YOU AND YOUR HOME

The clock is ticking and you and your family are sound asleep in your beds; time to recharge your batteries and refresh your body and mind ready for the challenges of everyday life. But as you sleep there is a wealth of activity going on all over the country protecting families as they sleep; an army of unsung heroes awake and alert and ready to spring into action without a second's hesitation if fire breaks out in your home.



Smoke alarms - quite simply the unsung hero in your home. It's not just at night that this army doesn't sleep; if you test them weekly and keep their batteries topped up, they will stay awake 24/7 ready to give early warning of a fire, giving you and your family the vital seconds needed to escape a fire.

Area Manager Alex Johnson said: "It's so easy to ignore your smoke alarms - attached to the ceiling, quiet and unassuming, but they really are the unsung heroes of home safety.

"If you test them regularly and ensure their batteries are working, then they will watch over you and your family, keeping you safe from fire. We urge everyone to test their smoke alarms on a weekly basis – it's as simple as pushing the button".

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Terry McDermott MA
Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive



In 2015 Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service (DFRS) attended 434 accidental dwelling house fires, of which 40% had smoke alarms that didn't operate, or no smoke alarms fitted at all! Despite continued work over the last 10 years to highlight the importance of having working smoke alarms fitted in the home, 16% of 2015 accidental dwelling fires didn't have a smoke alarm system present at all.

DFRS will continue to campaign for working smoke alarms to be fitted on every level of the home through the provision of Home Safety Checks, direct engagement - delivered by Firefighters and Community Safety Officers, and social media campaigns.

ENDS

Rachel Palmer
Press and Communications Manager

