



Fire Department

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE:** *February 27, 2007*  
**NEWS RELEASE # 07-08**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**NATIONWIDE CALL TO PREVENT FIRE FATALITIES**  
**A Message from the US Fire Administration and the Milwaukee Fire Department**

In the first two weeks of February 2007, there have been 56 fire fatalities reported in the United States. These include a family of ten in Kentucky, a family of five in Pennsylvania, four in Texas, and two in Milwaukee. This list does not include the fatality in New Berlin on Monday, February 19.

There is no single more important item in any household than a working smoke alarm. Nationwide, nearly one-third of residential fires and two-fifths of residential fatal fires occur in homes with no working smoke detectors. Since January of 2004, there have been 43 fire fatalities in Milwaukee; of these, 32 were in homes that had a non-working smoke detector, had no smoke detector, or the fire department was unable to determine the condition of the detector before the fire.

Having a working, properly placed smoke detector reduces the chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50%. One should be installed on every level of a home, and outside of bedrooms. A smoke detector should be placed in each bedroom if bedroom doors are closed while sleeping, or young children live in the house. Check the alarm once a month, and replace the batteries once a year, or when the detector starts chirping.

To obtain more information on smoke alarms and fire safety from the US Fire Administration, visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov) or call the Milwaukee Fire Department.

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