



Get Alarmed, Tennessee! Smoke Alarm Program Saves

10-year battery alarms purchased in part with 2011 FEMA FP&S Grant Funds

- **Afton, TN (January 24, 2013)**

Occupants: at least 2

It appears the fire started in the chimney of a wood burning stove that was used for heat. According to the TFIRS report, the smoke alarm alerted the occupants. The Newmansville Fire Department installed 2 smoke alarms in the home on 1/5/13.

- **Cleveland, TN (January 26, 2013)**

Occupants: 1

Bradley Co. Fire & Rescue installed 2 smoke alarms at the address on 12/21/12. Cleveland Fire Department responded to a fire at this residence a month later. The structure was an older mobile home that had been altered by an addition (wood frame). The fire originated in the ceiling in a small dining area that shared the same space with the entrance on one side and a kitchen on the other side. 50% of the structure received damage from direct flame contact and 100% received significant smoke and water damage. The home was not repairable. The occupant was asleep in an adjoining room (the wood frame addition) in a reclining chair. The smoke alarms alerted him to the presence of smoke and shortly after exiting the structure the fire broke through the ceiling near where he exited (front door). The cause of the fire appears to be some type of electrical failure with the wiring near a ceiling light in that room.

- **Belvidere, TN (March 2013)**

Occupants: 1

Alarm installed by Keith Springs Vol. Fire Department. Several weeks after installation, the elderly resident fell asleep while food was cooking on the stove. She was alerted by the smoke alarm.

- **Columbia, TN (April 19, 2013)**

Occupants: 1

The Columbia Fire Department responded to a reported smoke alarm going off at a residence. Dispatch advised the occupant was blind and could have problems getting out of the house. The occupant was on the front porch upon fire department arrival. He didn't know why his smoke alarms were going off. Crew investigated to find the home full of smoke. Crew removed a cooking pot with a box and bag of burned crackers in it from the stove, carried it outside and ventilated the structure. The occupant said that he had not been cooking and did not know how it had happened. A few weeks prior, the Columbia Fire Department had installed the smoke alarms via the smoke alarm program launched by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

- **Memphis, TN (May 28, 2013)**

Occupants: 19

The Memphis Fire Department installed smoke alarms in this multi-family home on 2/22/13. The installation report indicates that the home is heated by space and wall heaters. A fire took place at the residence on 5/28/13. The following is the Battalion Chief's account of the incident:

Today (5/28/13) at 1322 hrs, we received a report of a dwelling fire located at 1163 James. Myself, B-3 was first to arrive on the scene. I reported "smoke showing" in the Bravo Division on the second floor and established James command. Responding companies, Engines 14, 8, 29, and 16, along with Trucks 5, and 19 Rescue -2, EU-12, 202, Battalions 3 and 6, and 1st Division arrived @ 1326. I notified the Officer on E-14 on the talk group of the situation, and Lt Gilbert, E-14-B, (on OT this C shift day), sized up the situation and chose to make an interior attack using a 1.75 pre-connect off E-14. The fire was knocked down in timely manner and Primary and Secondary searches were all clear.

As the incident became under control and we were in the process of downsizing, I began speaking with the occupants of this rooming house to determine the cause and origin of the fire. I was speaking with one of the 19 occupants of this dwelling that included 5 young children. She told me that she was unsure of how the fire started. Upon speaking with her further I asked how all of you got out of the building. She explained to me how the smoke detectors that we fireman had just hung went off and all 19 people heard them and EVERYONE got out before the fire got going too big. She then stated to me "had it not been for those smoke detectors going off, I don't know what would have happened. None of us may have gotten out alive." After speaking with Lieutenant Gilbert, he told me that his company, E-14-B had hung 10 year smoke detectors in that very house a couple of months ago during our smoke detectors blitz.

Seldom do we get a chance to see firsthand how "just doing our job" turns out. In this particular case we were able to absolutely prevent a tragedy from occurring by being pro-active and diligent in our quest to hang smoke detectors and save lives.

- **Memphis, TN (June 6, 2013)**

Occupants: At least 2

The Memphis Fire Department responded to a fire in a single family dwelling with a wood framed vehicle parking garage. The occupants were able to self-evacuate the home. A male resident stated the fire started from an automobile that was under repair. Fire companies contained the spread of the fire to the attached garage and the adjoining areas inside the structure. The TFIRS report indicated that a smoke alarm was installed and it alerted occupants. The Memphis Fire Department installed that smoke alarm in the home on 2/23/13.

- **Savannah, TN (June 30, 2013)**

Occupants: At least 1

Hardin County Fire Department crews arrived on the scene to a reported fire and discovered the home owner had the fire out. The TFIRS report indicated that a smoke alarm was present in the home and that it alerted occupants. The Hardin County Fire Department installed that smoke alarm in the home on 2/28/13.

- **Cookeville, TN (July 11, 2013)**

Occupants: 1

Smoke alarm alerted occupant to a fire on the stove top caused by unattended cooking. Occupant was able to extinguish the fire, but fire department checked for extension with thermal imaging and ventilated the smoke. The Putnam County Fire Department installed smoke alarms in this home 4 months prior to the fire on 4/17/13.

- **Pigeon Forge, TN (July 31, 2013)**

Occupants: 2

Pigeon Forge Fire Department was called to a residence for a grease fire. Crews arrived on scene and found all occupants out of the house, no visible fire but light smoke inside the residence. Owner explained she was trying to fry some chicken for supper and then the oil she was using caught fire. She said while she was on the phone, the dispatcher advised her how to extinguish the fire. The TFIRS report indicated that smoke alarms were present and alerted occupants. The Pigeon Forge Fire Department installed alarms in this home on 11/02/12.

- **Bruceton, TN (November 26, 2013)**

Occupants: 9

Electrical fire at 1:30 a.m. caused smoke alarms to alert in a manufactured home with 9 people sleeping inside. All 9 people were able to escape the burning home without injury. The Hollow Rock Vol. Fire Department installed smoke alarms in this home just weeks earlier.

- **Elizabethton, TN (November 29, 2013)**

Occupants: 1

Occupant had been smoking and fell asleep on the couch in the living room. The fire originated in that area and began spreading through the rest of the room. The smoke alarm alerted the occupant who exited the home. The fire department arrived and stopped the spread of the fire, but the living room sustained significant fire damage. The Elizabethton Fire Department installed smoke alarms in this home on 12/07/12.

- **Ashland City, TN (December 24, 2013)**

Occupants: 1

Smoke alarms alerted to a fire in a manufactured home shortly before 2 a.m. The resident inside was able to escape with help from her grandson who lived next door. The Ashland City Fire Department installed alarms at this residence on 10/29/13.

- **Dowelltown, TN (February 3, 2014)**

Occupants: 1

Smoke alarms alerted to a grease fire caused by unattended cooking. The occupant was able to evacuate without injury. The following is an account of the incident from the DeKalb County Fire Chief:

We were called to West Main Street in Dowelltown this morning to a structure fire. When we got there and upon speaking with the occupant, she advised us that she had been in the kitchen cooking some breakfast and apparently had left the stove eye on and it had caught fire in her kitchen. She safely evacuated out of the house. At the time of her discovering the fire, she was in another room when the smoke alarms activated in the home and alerted her. When she opened the door into the kitchen, she noticed that the back wall was on fire behind the stove and the curtains were on fire. She evacuated the house and called 911.

The DeKalb County Fire Department installed smoke alarms at this residence on 8/13/13.

- **Mount Pleasant, TN (February 20, 2014)**

Occupants: 1

A smoke alarm alerts to a kitchen fire at 9:00 p.m. and the occupant escapes without injury. The Mount Pleasant Fire Department installed a smoke alarm in this home on 7/24/13.

- **Gates, TN (February 20, 2014)**

Occupants: 1

From the Lauderdale County Fire Chief:

Thought you would be happy to know one of your smoke alarms installed last week by the Gates Fire Department alerted a lady early this morning (3:05 a.m.) to a fire in her stove/oven. FD responded quickly. Only smoke damage and stove damage. Lady OK and thankful for the smoke alarm.

- **Columbia, TN (March 30, 2014)**

Occupants: 2

The Columbia Fire Department responded to a call of a stove fire. Occupants were outside when crews arrived. Occupants were alerted by the smoke alarm and subsequently evacuated the structure and initiated the emergency call. The Columbia Fire Department installed a smoke alarm at this address on 2/21/14.

- **Humboldt, TN (May 15, 2014)**

Occupants: 5

Smoke alarm activates to a home fire at 10:00 p.m. The 5 residents inside the home were able to escape and were outside upon fire department arrival. Humboldt Fire Department installed a smoke alarm in this home on 2/19/14.

- **Martin, TN (May 20, 2014)**

Occupants: 2

Smoke alarms alert 2 people to an arson fire that has spread from a neighboring housing unit. Those 2 occupants are able to escape the burning structure. The Martin Fire Department installed smoke alarms in the home on 3/30/14.

- **Memphis, TN (May 25, 2014)**

Occupants: 9

Smoke alarm alerts to an electrical fire inside a home housing 9 people. Occupants are able to escape the burning structure and call the fire department to extinguish. The fire caused \$20,000 worth of damage to the home. The Memphis Fire Department installed a smoke alarm in the home on 3/1/14.

- **Arlington, TN (January 7, 2015)**

Occupants: 2

Companies from Arlington, Shelby County, and Memphis Fire Departments respond to a midnight house fire. Immediate fire attack and search procedures were initiated and the fire was knocked down and extinguished. During the salvage and overhaul operations, the homeowner was asked what happened. They advised they were sleeping in another room and were alerted by the smoke alarm. The initial reaction of the homeowner was to try and fight the fire, but due to the size of the fire and rapid growth, they decided to evacuate the structure. Preliminary investigation indicates that there was a space heater in the bathroom next to some floor mats that ignited and caused the fire. There were no injuries to the homeowner or to any firefighters on the scene. Arlington Fire Department installed a smoke alarm in the home on 2/5/13.

Get Alarmed, Tennessee!

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*Dual Sensor 9 volt battery alarms purchased with 2009 FEMA FP&S Grant Funds
Distributed 2010-2011*

- **Milan, TN (April 17, 2012)**

Occupants: 1

Cooking fire that began when homeowner was making tea, left the room to watch TV and forgot the stove was on. The smoke alarm alerted her to the fire. There were no injuries. The only damage from the fire was a melted pot handle. Milan Fire Department installed 3 smoke alarms in the home on 12/16/11.

- **Alcoa, TN (May 5, 2012)**

Occupants: 8

Fire began when a portable heater ignited a mattress. According to the TFIRS report, children were sleeping on the bed where the mattress had caught fire. The homeowner was awoken by the smoke alarm at 5am, found the mattress burning and extinguished the fire. After that, the batteries were removed from the smoke alarm. The children were moved to another room, and the family went back to sleep. The fire rekindled a few hours later at 7:45am, at which point Alcoa Fire Department responded. There were no injuries to the 8 occupants. There was \$40,000 of damage to the \$83,200 home. Alcoa Fire Department installed a smoke alarm in the home on 12/18/2011.