



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Wheeling Selected as Signature City for “Sound the Alarm” Campaign

WHEELING, W.Va., -- The City of Wheeling has been selected by the American Red Cross as a 2020 Sound the Alarm city which will make residents and those in the surrounding Ohio County communities eligible to receive smoke alarms and have them installed free of charge.

Wheeling, along with Morgantown and Huntington are just three West Virginia cities of the 133 chosen this year for the 2020 Sound the Alarm campaign.

“The American Red Cross is excited to partner with our local firefighters to help save lives,” said Regional Executive Director Sharon Kesselring.

The Sound the Alarm campaign, established in 2014, has saved roughly 700 lives by installing more than 7-million smoke alarms making more than 850,000 homes safer across the United States.

Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott added, “Every day across this country, home fires threaten families, but working smoke alarms can be the difference between survival and tragedy. The American Red Cross wants to improve the odds and save lives. We are happy to be a part of this program and so pleased that Wheeling has been selected as a signature city.”

The Red Cross, along with the Wheeling Fire Department, Ohio County volunteer fire departments and volunteers will install free smoke alarms in the greater Wheeling area on Saturday, April 18. A separate corporate partner install date will be announced in the future. The smoke alarms being installed will last for 10 years. Anyone who has an alarm more than 10-years-old should replace.

Those wishing to have a free smoke alarm installed and receive in-home fire safety and evacuation information need to register before April 18 by calling 304-232-0712. Volunteers also are needed and can call the same number to help. You must leave your name, address and phone number. Before the install date, a representative will call and make an install appointment time.

“We appreciate the efforts the Red Cross is putting forth to help save lives during home fires,” said Wheeling Fire Chief Larry Helms. “Smoke alarms are lifesavers. Those who have working detectors in their home or business are twice as likely to survive a fire.”

The Wheeling Fire Department’s Bureau of Fire Prevention reminds the public to test their smoke alarm monthly and to replace the batteries during the ‘fall back’ and ‘spring forward’ time changes.

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