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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
COMMUNICATIONS

# NEWS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 13, 2009

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## **TEST SMOKE DETECTORS**

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – Since Thanksgiving 2008, there have been 158 fatal fires in the United States and more than 200 fire fatalities. In addition to national incidents, Sedgwick County has seen more than its fair share of tragic losses due to preventable fires.

In response to one of the most deadly holiday seasons due to residential fires in recent memory, Sedgwick County Fire District #1 asks all residents to test their smoke detectors and add alarms to parts of the home where they are scarce. The best places to install detectors are in the kitchen, hallways, bedrooms and utility rooms. There should be at least one smoke detector present on each level of the home.

Sedgwick County Fire Marshall Tim Millsbaugh is “concerned with the increase in fatal fires” and says “every person should be protected by a smoke detector, especially as they sleep.”

Smoke detectors are a very important means of preventing home fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal so you and your family can escape.

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They are one of the best and most cost-effective safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family, and your home. You can prevent tragedies simply by testing and maintaining your smoke detectors and practicing a fire escape plan. All smoke detectors in your house should be tested once a month and their batteries replaced annually or as indicated by the manufacturer's instructions.

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