



FREE SMOKE DETECTORS AVAILABLE TO OAKLAND PARK RESIDENTS

City's Fire-Rescue Department Focused on Saving Lives

Oakland Park, FL – Oakland Park Fire-Rescue has been installing free smoke detectors in homes throughout the city in 2004, but a situation firefighters recently faced reinforced just how important it is for residents to take them up on their offer.

Fire-Rescue responded to a call for help in the early morning hours of Wednesday, November 10, and discovered a fast-moving fire in the kitchen of a home with three people inside. The home did not have smoke detectors to warn occupants of the fire and its windows were still covered with plywood that had been used as hurricane shutters, further restricting firefighter's rescue operations.

"We were able to remove the occupants from the home and contain the fire, but this situation could have very easily become a tragedy," said Oakland Park Fire Chief Donald Widing. "I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have working smoke detectors. It is very often the difference between life and death."

Any Oakland Park resident that receives fire-rescue services from the City is eligible to receive free smoke detectors by calling (954) 497-4100. Officials also encourage residents to remove hurricane shutters and check the operation of security bars to insure there is way to escape should a fire occur.

To learn more about services offered by the City of Oakland Park,
log on to www.oaklandparkfl.org.

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