

# **Aberdeen Fire Dept. Partners with the American Red Cross to Make our Community Safer.**

Aberdeen Fire Dept. (AFD) partnered with The American Red Cross (ARC) in January 2021. This partnership allowed the AFD to install smoke alarms in the community where there is a need. With the support of Fire Chief Hubbard they implemented a smoke alarm program; everyone in the dept. is involved. This program is an important part of Community Risk Reduction (CRR) in the fire service.

ARC provides smoke alarms and an information packet for the community member. The fire dept. fills out one form for each home and sends them back to ARC on a monthly basis.

We have placed smoke alarm kits on each of our engines so our firefighters can install them if they find community members without working smoke alarms.

Over the last year with COVID precautions in place, AFD was able to conduct some smoke alarm sweeps in neighborhoods where we have had recent structure fires. In 2021 we conducted 168 smoke alarm home visits and installed 86 smoke alarms along with home fire safety education to include:

- Review fall prevention packet with the appropriate audience.
- Educate homeowners about fall prevention and changes in their home to make it safer.
- Creating a fire escape plan.
- Reviewing the Home Fire Safety checklist.
- Providing information regarding identified hazards, Tsunamis, flooding and earthquakes.

On August 12, 2021, AFD had a confirmed smoke alarm save. AFD did a smoke alarm sweep on February 8, 2021 after a structure fire in the neighborhood. A smoke alarm was installed in the residence by AFD personnel. The homeowner called to advise he had a fire in his bedroom and if it had not been for the smoke alarm AFD installed in his bedroom he would not have woken up.

If AFD had not partnered with ARC we would not have conducted the smoke alarm sweep and our community member would have had a different outcome.

**Monica Myers, Fire Service Specialist  
Aberdeen Fire Department**

February 10, 2022