

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is asking Berkshire householders to make just one New Year's resolution this year: to test their smoke alarms every week.

Smoke alarms can give you the precious extra time needed to escape from a fire in the home but they are useless if the batteries are flat or have been removed. It only takes a matter of seconds to test your smoke alarms and doing so could save your life in an emergency. In fact, statistics show that you are **four times more likely to survive a fire** if you have working smoke alarms¹.

You can help keep yourself and your loved ones safe by following these top tips:

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home
- The best places to fit them are at the bottom of the stairs, with further alarms on each stair landing
- The ideal position is on the ceiling, as near as possible to the centre of the room, hallway or landing

To keep your smoke alarms in good working order:

- Once a week – test the battery in each smoke alarm
- Once a year – change the battery in the alarm (unless it is a 10-year alarm)
- Twice a year – gently vacuum over the slots to remove dust
- Every ten years – replace the entire smoke alarm

Dave Phillips, Area Manager for Prevention and Protection at RBFRS, said: "January is the perfect time for a fresh start, so why not get into the habit of testing your smoke alarms every week? Smoke alarms can be lifesavers in the event of a fire but it is essential to check them on a regular basis to make sure they are still working.

"As well as testing them weekly, it is important to make sure you have enough smoke alarms in your home and that they are fitted in the right places. If you make just one resolution for 2015, please make it looking after your smoke alarms, so that if the worst should happen, they can look after you."

ENDS.

¹ Source: Fire Kills

MAKING BERKSHIRE SAFER

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