

CONGRESSMAN

News
From

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SAYS SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

Washington - This year's national Fire Prevention Week theme is "A Sound You Can Live With...Test Your Detector!" Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) will be taking a few minutes during that week - October 9-15 - to test his smoke detector and is urging all constituents to do the same.

"According to the National Fire Protection Association, having an installed, working smoke detector can cut in half the risk of a person dying in a fire," Rahall said. "I want to be on the positive side of those odds, so I'm making sure I've got a smoke detector that works." Rahall encourages everyone to join him and install and test their smoke detectors during Fire Prevention Week.

"Nearly 6,000 people died in fires last year - almost 80% in their homes...that's just too high a figure - particularly when, for only a few dollars, people can do something to help them get out in time," Rahall said.

The NFPA recommends that one smoke detector be placed on each floor of your home and outside sleeping areas. "Since smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths, if you're a smoker, install a smoke detector in your bedroom and don't smoke in bed!"

It has been recommended that once installed, smoke detectors should be regularly tested and cleaned - preferably with a vacuum. Congressman Rahall urges everyone throughout West Virginia to participate in this life-saving activity this October. For those who need more information, Rahall recommends contacting the local fire department.

In closing Rahall commented, "Remember, whatever type of home you live in - apartment, condominium multi-family or single family home - smoke detectors can save lives...if they're installed and working."

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