

Florence Energy News



HOME SAFETY SMOKE DETECTORS

Although many home owners spend thousands of dollars to increase the value and comfort of their homes, they often overlook

a simple measure that can help protect both their largest investment and the lives of their families. Each year, about 6,000 deaths, 100,000 injuries, and 7 billion dollars of property damage are caused by fire. More than three-quarters of the deaths occur at home.

Many of these losses could be prevented by smoke detectors. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) estimates that people in homes without smoke detectors are twice as likely to die in house fires than people in homes with them. An even more alarming statistic is the fact that, out of the nearly 75% of American homes with at least one smoke detector, only between one-half and two-thirds actually work. Once these devices are installed, many people simply forget about them. In some cases they are purposely disconnected to avoid the ear-piercing sound they emit when a skillet is overheated.

Smoke detectors should not be ignored. An NFPA study found that 63% of overnight fire fatalities occur when it takes 20 minutes or longer to discover a fire.

Two-thirds of those fatalities occur when it takes more than 40 minutes to discover the fire. The sooner a fire is discovered, especially during sleeping hours, the less destructive and deadly the consequences. The International Association of Fire Chiefs reports that smoke detectors provide the first warning of 60% of fires that start at night.

Smoke detectors come in two basic types: ionization detectors and photoelectric detectors. Ionization detectors contain a tiny radioactive cell that electronically charges molecules of air, creating particles called ions. These ions produce a continuous flow of electrical current that diminishes when smoke attaches to the ions. As the flow of current is reduced, the smoke alarm is triggered.

Photoelectric detectors contain a source of light which shines into a chamber, along with a photocell that is sensitive to light. When smoke enters the chamber, it scatters the light and reflects it onto the photocell, which triggers the alarm.

Ionization detectors react more quickly to flaming fires, while photocell detectors react more quickly to smoldering fires. Both can be purchased as battery-powered models (using 9-volt

batteries) or plugged in or connected (hardwired) into the home's electric circuits.

The NFPA recommends that smoke detectors be installed in every room of the home. At a minimum, one detector should be installed on each level of the home. Recommended locations include open hallways where smoke is likely to spread and near any sleeping areas. The detectors should be located either on the ceiling, at least six inches from the wall, or high on the wall, between six and twelve inches from the ceiling.

Smoke detectors should be tested at least once a month. Over time, they can become worn, clogged with dust, or long overdue for replacement batteries. All one needs to do is to push the "test" button on the unit, hold up a candle or incense stick, or purchase a can of aerosol spray specifically designed for testing smoke detectors. If the unit fails to trigger an alarm, check for excess dust or dirt clogs, replace the battery (if applicable), or simply replace the device, particularly if it is over five years old.

For additional information on smoke detectors and fire safety and prevention, contact your local fire department or call **740-6089**.

CITY OF FLORENCE SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING AND WATER/ WASTEWATER DEPARTMENTS PARTNERING TO RECYCLE COOKING OIL INTO BIODIESEL

The City of Florence is celebrating its 20th year of recycling thanks to its many dedicated participants. A new program has been started that will convert used cooking oil into biodiesel. A biodiesel processing facility will be built at the City of Florence Wastewater plant, and special carrying cages have been added to the recycling trucks to pick up containers.

Any type of vegetable-based oil that residents or businesses want to get rid of will be collected with your weekly recycling. Please place your used oil in empty milk jugs or 2-liter soda bottles. Replacement bottles are available. Also, designated drop-off locations have been established for county residents.

This new program gives the residents and businesses an easy method to use for disposal, and it reduces the amount of space taken up by the landfill.

For more information or a free container, contact the Solid Waste and Recycling Department at **760-6495** or **760-6466**.

The City of Florence
urges you to:



RECYCLE

USED COOKING OIL DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Foodland in Killen
BP Station on Cloverdale Road
Coussons Gas Station on
Savannah Highway toward Central
City of Florence Recycling Center
1200 Terrace St. off Veterans Dr.

Place used cooking oil in a sealable container like a 2-liter coke bottle, milk jug, or Florence City container. Free Florence City containers are available at any drop off location.

CITY OF FLORENCE RECYCLING CENTER
760-6466

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The amount of the convenience fee charged for utility bill paying with a credit or debit card has changed. The new amount will be **\$4.95 per payment.**

Florence Utilities will be closed the following holidays:

December 24th and 25th

January 1st and 19th

Due to the increase in utility rates, Budget Billing participants are being encouraged to increase the amount of their monthly utility bill payment.

Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

The City of Florence is celebrating its 20th year of recycling thanks to its many dedicated participants. A new program has been started that will convert used cooking oil into biodiesel. Any type of vegetable-based oil that residents or businesses want to get rid of will be collected with your weekly recycling or drop off locations may be used. More details and drop off locations are listed in this issue.

Each year, about 6,000 deaths, 100,000 injuries, and 7 billion dollars of property damage are caused by fire. Most of these deaths occur at home, which could have been prevented by having working smoke detectors. More facts about smoke detectors and fire safety prevention are listed inside.

Several important announcements are listed on the back, and from all of us at Florence Utilities, may you have safe, warm, and happy holidays.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

www.florenceutilities.com