**SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION DURING A PANDEMIC**

**This is a template. Customize this draft policy to meet local needs. 03/02/2021**

**SCOPE**:

This procedure shall apply to the installation of smoke alarms by fire department personnel during a pandemic.

**PURPOSE**:

To provide guidelines for fire department personnel to follow to reduce the risk of exposure to a coronavirus when installing smoke alarms in homes during a pandemic.

**BACKGROUND**:

It is an established fact that properly installed and working smoke alarms drastically reduce the chance of dying in a house fire. In a pandemic, people may spend more time in their homes because of restrictions on patronizing businesses, restaurants, and from working at home. One of the possible symptoms of COVID-19 is the loss of the sense of smell, which makes it very important that every home has at least one working smoke alarm. It would be tragic for a person to die in a home that did not have a working smoke alarm simply because the fire department did not install one during the pandemic. Research has shown that the proper use of appropriate PPE can prevent the spread of the coronavirus, which means the fire department can install smoke alarms with minimal exposure risk to fire department personnel.

**PROCEDURE**:

1. The fire department will provide and install an appropriate number of battery-operated smoke alarms in homes that do not have a working smoke alarm in place.
2. With proper precautions, fire departments can still provide in-person, in-home smoke alarm installations. Personnel shall follow these precautions when entering a home during the pandemic to install smoke alarms.
3. No more than two fire department personnel shall enter the structure.
4. All personnel shall wear N95 masks (not cloth masks) and gloves. Additional PPE may be worn at the discretion of the fire department personnel.
5. All occupants of the home shall wear a mask while fire personnel are in the home.
6. The number of occupants must be limited during the visit.
7. Social distancing shall be maintained as much as possible.
8. A minimal number of occupants shall be present in the area where the smoke alarms are being installed.
9. Smoke alarms, equipment, and tools shall remain in the tool bag unless being used.
10. Except for the tool bag, fire department tools and equipment shall not be placed on any surfaces in the home.
11. Installed smoke alarm(s) will be disinfected in a manner mirroring the manufacturer’s cleaning instructions for the smoke alarm.
12. Gloves and masks shall be disposed of in plastic bags before getting back on the apparatus or in the fire department vehicle.
13. Any waste, boxes, or old alarms will be left in the home for the occupant to dispose of later.
14. Nothing from the home will be brought back with the install team.
15. Before getting back into the fire department vehicle, the install team shall disinfect their hands and any tools and equipment used before placing tools and equipment back on the apparatus or vehicle and re-entering the apparatus or vehicle.
16. Fire department personnel shall document the installation in accordance with regular documentation procedures for smoke alarm installations.
17. To minimize personal contact, the occupants shall not be required to sign any forms during the visit.