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Press Release

CHFD Goes Door to Door in Colchester Commons to Install Smoke Detectors

On Saturday, October 22, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department, along with volunteers from the Red Cross, went door to door in Colchester Commons to install smoke detectors. This 55 and over community has experienced two structure fires in the last year which luckily did not result in any injuries. However, both locations did not have smoke detectors in the building to alert the occupants if there were a fire. The fires were both during the day, which luckily the occupants were awake and able to escape the building. Had this fire occurred while they were sleeping, the outcome could have been different. Based on these two occurrences it was apparent a Community Risk Reduction effort was needed.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact. In other words, it is a process to help communities find out what their risks are and develop a plan to reduce the risks viewed as high priority. Through this process we can lessen the community risk and provide resources prior to an emergency occurring.

Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann, Fire Marshal Sean Shoemaker and 9 members of the CHFD, along with 19 volunteers from the Red Cross, walked to throughout Colchester Commons educating residents on fire safety as well as installing smoke detectors in their homes. The crews were able to install 108 smoke detectors in 51 homes in the complex. Those who were not home were left contact information so they can be visited at a later date to provide them with the same education and smoke detector instillation.

In addition to providing this service to the community, it was great to be able to interact and talk with the residents in Colchester Commons. All were extremely receptive and supportive of the initiative to make them safer. While the fire department is usually called when an emergency occurs, this allows the fire department to be proactive in stopping an emergency before it occurs.

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