



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Fire Marshal's Office Receives Operation Save-A-Life Donation from Kidde Fire

NEW ORLEANS- The Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal (SFM) is proud to announce it is the recipient of a generous donation to our agency by Kidde Fire.

In tandem with Daylight Saving Time, Kidde is donating 100, 10-year lithium battery smoke alarms and 200, 10-year lithium battery carbon monoxide (CO) alarms for Louisiana residents via the SFM's Operation Save-A-Life program. Operation Save-A-Life is a public safety campaign run by the SFM in collaboration with local fire departments and districts to help boost fire protection in the homes of vulnerable residents. The initiative provides new smoke alarms with free installation, and will now include CO alarms as part of Kidde's participation.

The CO alarm donation also aligns with Kidde's Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week that will take place November 3-9. This week-long initiative aims to educate people about the importance of having working CO alarms installed. CO is an odorless gas that is generated by furnaces and appliances running on fuels such as natural gas, propane and gasoline. According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 50,000 Americans visit the emergency room each year due to accidental CO poisoning (Source). As part of this partnership, Kidde and the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal will work to ensure residents are protected with both smoke and CO alarms.

This donation comes on the heels of the agency receiving a FEMA *Assistance to Firefighters Grant* award, totaling \$55,000, that will allow the SFM to boost its smoke alarm inventory for Operation Save-A-Life efforts by 5,000 units just in time for cooler weather to become a regular occurrence across our state.

This is an ideal time for this surge in smoke and CO alarms into the state as not only will temperatures be declining on a more consistent basis, leading to families to begin heating practices in their homes, but the Gulf Coast remains in hurricane season through the end of November. Many places across our state have learned this year's season continues to be active with the use of generators put in use as a result of a passing storm system.

"We are fortunate to have a partner in safety like Kidde," said State Fire Marshal Chief Butch Browning, "This donation will help us further our efforts to see fewer home fire injuries and deaths across our state

this cold weather season. The act of putting even just one smoke alarm or CO alarm into a home is too simple of a step toward saving multiple lives to not take a few minutes to either install one yourself or call us for helping in doing so.”

“Kidde believes that no family should ever have to choose between smoke or CO alarms and food. This is why we are absolutely committed to donating alarms to programs like Operation Save-A-Life which gets life-saving alarms into the homes of people who might otherwise not be able to afford them,” said Kidde Safety Expert Sharon Cooksey.

Residents are encouraged to “check the chirp” this weekend to ensure smoke alarms are in working order. If not, the SFM recommends changing batteries in those units that require replacements or upgrading your smoke alarms to the 10-year lithium battery version.

In addition to having working smoke alarms, the SFM also emphasizes the importance of having planned and practiced escape routes for your home that include knowing two ways out of every room.

Lastly, the SFM implores residents to use common sense when heating their homes this fall and winter season. A safe-heating tips video can be found on our agency social media sites, which includes advice on best practices when using space heaters like plugging them directly into wall outlets, placing them at least 3-5 feet away from combustible and/or flammable objects and never leaving them unattended while powered on.

To register for a free smoke alarm, or learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, visit lasfm.org.



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