



# Northville Township Fire Department

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## Tragedy provides a stark reminder

Recent events provide a stark reminder of how fragile life really is for all of us. Five children, ages 3, 5, 8, 9 and 11 have been killed in two home fires in the last week devastating families, schools and communities across Michigan.

Fires spread faster today than ever before due to the synthetic materials that make up the majority of our furniture, decorations and building materials. Synthetic materials burn hotter and faster than natural materials. Research shows that 40 years ago you had about 17 minutes to escape a house fire; today you only have about 3 minutes. Be prepared by following this checklist today:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside of every bedroom and on every level of your home.
- Install CO alarms on each level of your home and near sleeping rooms.
- With Daylight Savings time coming to an end its time to “change your clocks, change your batteries.” Even if your alarms are “hardwired” or “interconnected,” you still need to replace the battery to make sure that the alarms will work if you lose power.
- Replace all alarms after 10 years. If your smoke alarm does not have a date printed on the back of the device, then it needs to be replaced.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly by pressing the TEST button. This button tests for power and sound generation but does not test the smoke sensing components.
- Develop and practice your escape plan. Get out and stay out! Have a meeting place and make sure everyone understands the plan. Practice, practice, practice.
- “Close before you doze.” Close your bedroom doors before you go to sleep. Closing your door can reduce room temperatures by almost 900 degrees and slow the spread of fire.

For more information please visit us at [www.northvillemich.com](http://www.northvillemich.com) or “Like” us on Facebook at @TwpNorthville. Please feel free to contact the Fire Prevention Division with any questions at (248) 348-5807.