



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL W. DYER  
FIRE CHIEF

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **- Protect Your Family from Fire -**

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. October 11, 2011– The most effective way to protect your family and your home from fire is to prevent a fire from starting. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department recommends that identifying and eliminating fire hazards in and around your home is your first line of defense.

If a fire should start in your home, smoke alarms can be the difference between safety and catastrophe. Homes should have a working smoke alarm on every level and in each sleeping area. Most fire victims die from smoke inhalation and toxic gases, not as a result of burns.

All members of your household should be thoroughly familiar with what to do in case a fire occurs. Fires produce thick, dark smoke that irritates the eyes, makes breathing difficult, and can cause confusion. People who have been disoriented in fires have been found in closets, stairwells, and laundry rooms thinking they were exits. It is nearly impossible to navigate through such smoke, so fire escape routes should include at least two exits from every room—a primary and secondary route in case the primary route is blocked. Planning escape routes and physically practicing before a fire can save your life.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department reminds people to make this Fire Prevention Week the beginning of a yearlong effort to improve fire safety for your family and your home.

#### **Contact Information:**

Captain David Sadecki  
Information Officer  
Office 805.681-5531  
Cell 805.689-0599  
News Line 805.681-5546  
Email [david.sadecki@sbcfire.com](mailto:david.sadecki@sbcfire.com)

All Santa Barbara County Fire Department Public Service Announcements are available at [www.sbcfire.com](http://www.sbcfire.com)

###