On February 3, 2015 the Town of Wells initiated a Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Program to benefit the citizens of Wells that are income challenged, which in many cases are elderly or those who have young children at home, to purchase the devices for life-safety protection. The program is the direct result of Southern Maine having seen so many incidences in the last several months where Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors would have made a lifesaving difference in emergency situations or has made that difference in allowing people to live!

The Board of Selectmen have made an initial contribution from their contingency account to this project by establishing a new Fund with an initial $500 donation and are accepting charitable donations to be placed in the Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Program Fund much like the “Fuel Assistance Fund” that many municipalities have set up in recent years to help the needy.

This program is also an educational program for all of the citizens of Wells to include consultations and home visits with suggested placement of detectors based on the State Law.

Code Officials check the age, condition, and location of the devices and provide the homeowner with educational hand-outs and in some cases install detectors for those that need assistance.

Any donations of devices, batteries or funds would be greatly appreciated to help provide life-safety protection to the less fortunate. Please send your donations payable to the Town of Wells to the attention of CEO, Jodine Adams, Town of Wells, 208 Sanford Road, Wells, ME 04090. Your donation will be acknowledged through acceptance by the Board of Selectmen with a letter back to you.

Sincerely,

Jon Carter,
Town Manager
Town of Wells
Smoke alarms save lives. However, people who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to depend on the traditional smoke alarm to alert them to a fire.

**SAFETY TIPS**

- Smoke alarms and alert devices, called accessories, are available for people who are deaf. Strobe lights throughout the home are activated by smoke alarms and alert people who are deaf to fire conditions. When people who are deaf are asleep, a high intensity strobe light is required along with a pillow or bed shaker to wake them up and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. Currently this equipment is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm.

- Smoke alarm alert devices, called accessories, are available for people who are hard of hearing. These accessories produce a loud, mixed low-pitched sound. This equipment is activated by the sound of the smoke alarm and is usually installed next to the bed. People who are deaf may find that a pillow or bed shaker is also helpful to wake them up.

- Recent research has shown that a loud, mixed low-pitched sound is more effective for waking people of all ages than the loud high-pitched sound of a traditional smoke alarm. As people age, their ability to hear high-pitched sounds decreases.

- Research the available products and select one that best meets your individual needs.

**WHERE TO FIND EQUIPMENT**

Smoke alarms with built in or separate strobe lights can be purchased through home improvement store websites or by searching the internet for “strobe light smoke alarms.” BRK/First Alert, Gentex and Kidde brands offer this type of smoke alarm. Smoke alarm accessories such as bed/pillow shakers, transmitters and receivers are available through lifetonesafety.com, safeawake.com and silentcall.com Make sure any smoke alarm or accessory device you use has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. It has no odor. CO gas is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO ALARMS

- CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. It is best to use interconnected alarms. When one sounds, all CO alarms in the home sound.
- Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- Replace CO alarms according to the instructions on the package.
- Know the sounds the CO alarm makes. It will sound if CO is detected. It will make a different sound if the battery is low or if it is time to get a new CO alarm.
- If the battery is low, replace it.
- If the CO alarm sounds, you must get fresh air. Move outdoors, by an open window or near an open door. Make sure everyone in the home gets to fresh air. Call the fire department from a fresh air location. Stay there until help arrives.

PREVENT CO POISONING

- When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Do not run a fueled engine indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. Clear snow away.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Clear all debris from dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents.
- A generator should be used outdoors. Use in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

FACT!

CO is called the silent killer because the gas cannot been seen or smelled. Take action to stay safe from CO poisoning.

NFPA Public Education Division * 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education
Smoke Alarms
Save Lives

When fire strikes you may have less than one minute to safely get out of the building

- Having working smoke alarms in your home can double your chances of survival if a fire occurs.
- Home fire deaths have been cut in half since the early 1970's when smoke alarms were first marketed.

Smoke alarms can't help you if they are missing or don't work

- Tragically about 3,000 people still die in fires each year in the U.S.
- 40% of the fire deaths that occur each year in the U.S. take place in the 4% of homes without working smoke alarms.

Be safe, be aware, be protected

- Install smoke alarms throughout your home.
- Test them monthly.
- Replace batteries when you change your clocks.
- Never disable them or take out the batteries while cooking.

Fires produce heat, smoke and toxic gases

Smoke alarms warn residents in the event of a fire. They alert you and give you a chance to leave the building before your escape route is blocked by deadly smoke, heat and toxic gases.

When the alarm sounds

- Leave the building.
- Get out, Stay out!
- Go to the family meeting place.
- Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor’s home.

Special smoke alarms are available for the hearing impaired

The alarm can be wired to a light, which flashes when the detector is in alarm. A vibrating alert unit can also be used under a pillow while the person is asleep.

Plan and practice a home fire escape route

- Have two ways out of every room.
- Discuss the plan so each member of the family understands what to do in case of emergency.
- Choose a place outside the home where family members can meet to be sure everyone is safely out of the building.

FireFactors
Office of the State Fire Marshal • www.mass.gov/dfs • (978) 567-3380