



FIRE DEPARTMENT

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TO: Interested Parties for Smoke alarm program eligibility

FROM: Merced County Fire

RE: Eligibility Criteria to receive a free smoke alarm from the Merced County Fire Department.

The objective of the fire safety smoke alarm grant is to further outreach home safety and smoke alarm awareness to certain target groups in our County.

With our program and its objective there is limited smoke alarms and safety information that is available.

In order to obtain a free smoke alarm(s) while supplies last, they will be distributed in first-come, first-served basis. If you need assistance in the installation of smoke alarms please contact our office to obtain additional information and resources.

- 1) The applicants need to reside in the un-incorporated areas of Merced County. Residents that reside in the City of Merced, Atwater, Los Banos, Dos Palos, Gustine and Livingston are not eligible at this time. However, please feel free to call our office to obtain additional fire department contact information for additional resources that may be available.
- 2) The home that you live in, does not currently have operating smoke alarms in all the bedrooms and areas adjacent to the bedrooms as defined by the California Fire Code, Health and Safety Code.
- 3) Your existing smoke alarms are over ten (10) years old. Smoke alarms that are over ten (10) years old need to be replaced as per NFPA 72 and the manufacturer's instruction.
- 4) If you own the property as a rental property, you would not be eligible to receive a free smoke alarm(s) for your rental units. Rental property owners are required by state law to provide working smoke alarms in any residence that they rent out. Property owners failing to provide working smoke alarms may find themselves responsible for both civil and criminal penalties in the event they fail to meet state law requirements as noted in the California Code of Regulations.
- 5) The smoke alarm program is funded by a Federal Grant, if you do not have a working smoke alarms in your home, please be considerate of those who truly have a financial need for this program.

For additional questions please feel free to call our office at 209-385-7347