



NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: OCFA to Distribute 1,000 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Smoke Alarm Devices

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Irvine, CA – Any person living in a home without working smoke alarms is at risk of dying or being injured during a fire. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may have limited ability to escape during a fire. National Statistics show that those with disabilities increase their risk of succumbing to fire by 14%. The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is seeking deaf and hard of hearing individuals, who live in multi-family occupancies such as apartments, condominiums, or other multi-family units to receive free fire alerting devices specially designed to warn residents via flashing light and shaking the bed when their smoke alarm sounds.

“The OCFA is pleased to offer free fire alerting devices for the deaf and hard of hearing to keep our population safe from fires,” said OCFA Fire Marshal Laura Blaul. “These devices will provide peace of mind as well as extra ears for those who can’t hear their smoke alarms.”

These devices actively listen for the sound of the smoke alarm (and ignore all other sounds at the same frequency). When a smoke alarm sounds the alerting device immediately initiates three different methods to wake the resident up immediately: a deep tone alarm, a visual sign, and a physical vibration that shakes the bed.

While supplies last, OCFA will distribute these fire alerting devices to multi-family homes with deaf and hard of hearing residents. Installations will be done by volunteers and OCFA staff and will include a smoke alarm inspection at the time of delivery or in a follow up visit.

For more information or to be added to the list to receive these devices, call (714) 573-6153 or (714) 573-6200. Delivery can be expected within four weeks.

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The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.3 million residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.

