



**EAST HERKIMER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT #1, INC.**  
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**SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1931**

Dear Town of Herkimer Resident,

Most people do not realize that fire claims close to 4,000 lives a year across the United States. More than 75% of these fire deaths occur in the homes where we live. Recent studies indicate that smoke alarms are present in 46% of all homes. However, 65% of fire deaths have occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or ones which did not to operate.

With that being said, the East Herkimer Volunteer Fire Department is launching a new program to assist residents in verifying that they are properly protected with working smoke alarms so that they can escape in the event of a fire. The smoke detector installation program is focused around residents of the town in financial need or who are over the age of 65. If you qualify for the program, members of the department will schedule a time that is convenient to come to your home to conduct a survey of your existing smoke alarms and assist you with replacing batteries, testing alarms, and replacing smoke alarms that are out of date by installing new ones. Members will also offer fire safety literature including information on home escape drills. All portions of this program including new smoke alarms, if needed, are **FREE OF CHARGE**. This program is being funded by donations from our Ladies Auxiliary as well as memorial donations.

If you are interested in this program, please fill out the attached application and mail it to the address listed. Once your application is received, it will be reviewed to verify financial need or age of homeowner requirements. *Please send in an application even if you think that you might not meet the need criteria. We will be glad to assist all citizens of the town with friendly advice regarding smoke alarms or other fire safety concerns.*

Thank you for your time in this important matter. Please be sure to push the test button on your smoke alarms at least once a month and change batteries twice a year when you change the time on your clocks.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Keller, Fire Chief

Daniel Wellington, President