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**CDC, DHR SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM PROVEN TO SAVE LIVES**

*Three Lives Saved Through Public Health Smoke Alarm Program*

ATLANTA (GA) – When you least expect to need it, your smoke alarm can save your life. Earlier this year, an elderly Walker County couple didn't think they would need two brand new smoke alarms that were installed in their home. Luckily, less than two weeks later, the alarms sounded in the night, alerting them to a blaze that ignited in their fuse box. The family of three escaped the deadly house fire unharmed. They credited the local public health smoke alarm program with saving their lives.

The free smoke alarms provided to these Walker County residents are among some 14,000 that have been purchased and installed in homes throughout Georgia through a grant to public health from the CDC, Centers for Disease Control. Georgia is one of 16 states to receive funding for providing smoke alarms. This is the fourth year of the five-year grant.

“Grants like this help us to strengthen collaboration between the public health and local fire departments while maximizing our impact. Together we save lives and prevent injuries,” said Dr. Stuart Brown, acting director of the division of public health. “This program is estimated to have saved more than 70 people from fire related injuries over the past four years in Georgia.”

Brown explained that local fire departments apply to their local public health injury prevention program to receive smoke alarms. When accepted into the program, firefighters canvassed the community and knocked on doors to identify homes at highest risk for fire hazards and place the alarms accordingly. Through the smoke alarm program, more than 12,500 Georgia homes have been canvassed and more than 10,000 homes have been enrolled in the program.

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The fire departments are also encouraged to contact and accept referrals from their local health departments, the office on aging or DFCS to help ensure that special needs populations are protected.

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