

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



Division of Fire Safety
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
J. William Degan, State Fire Marshal

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 25, 2010
CONTACT: William Clark, Investigator
Max Schultz, District Chief

NO WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS IN EPSOM FIRE LOSS

State Fire Marshal J. William Degan, Epsom Fire Chief Stewart Yeaton, and Epsom Police Chief Wayne Preve announced the results of the March 24, 2010 fire investigation conducted at 92 Suncook Valley Highway, Epsom, New Hampshire. The residence sustained extensive fire damage. Five of the occupants and one fire fighter were transported to an area hospital with minor injuries.

The fire was reported at 12:57 a.m. by an occupant of the home. The early morning fire originated in the living room of the residence, and was most possibly caused by misuse of smoking materials in proximity to furnishings and contents. No smoke detectors operated during the fire, according to the occupants of the residence. Two of the residents were forced to exit through their bedroom windows, and a third was rescued by other occupants, who entered the bedroom from the outside of the residence.

State Fire Marshal Degan urges all citizens to check their smoke detectors regularly. Smoke detectors should be located outside the sleeping areas and on all levels of the home. You have as little as 3 minutes to escape a fire after the smoke detector sounds. According to a National Fire Protection Association report, 30% of smoke alarms didn't work in homes that had fires. Residential fire sprinklers save lives. Fire sprinklers fight the flames immediately, often putting out the fire before the fire department arrives on the scene. Installing fire sprinklers and smoke alarms cut your risk of dying in a home fire by 82% compared to having neither.

All further inquiries can be directed to Investigator William Clark of the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office at (603) 223-4289 or the Epsom Police Department at (603) 736-9624.