



## SRCA Newsletter Article August 2011



### Senior Smoke Alarm Program

The Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council (SRFSC) and the Scripps Ranch Elder Care Alliance (SRECA) are joining the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and the Burn Institute in a program to make our senior resident community much safer. The Burn Institute has initiated a project to equip homes of seniors--55 and older--with free, new, high-tech smoke alarms. Here are some startling facts.

- People 65+ have a fire death rate twice the national average;
- People 75+ have a fire death rate three times the national average;
- People 85+ have a fire death rate quadruple the national average;
- 75% of seniors who die in fires don't have a working smoke alarm; and,
- A functioning smoke alarm decreases your fire risk by 50%.

If you are age 55 or older and own your home, you are qualified for the free smoke alarms program. The Burn Institute will install, inspect existing smoke alarms, and replace batteries in existing units. The Burn Institute will install one new smoke alarm in each sleeping area, as well as an alarm on each level of the home. These alarms are powered by new lithium-battery systems that last 10 years. Strobe light smoke alarms for the hearing impaired also are available.

There is no cost. You get as many new, lithium-powered units per home as necessary, with free installation and servicing. Take advantage of this by calling the Burn Institute at 541-2277, ext. 13.

Also, is there volatile vegetation in your neighborhood that presents a potential wildfire hazard? Call the fire marshal's hotline at 619-533-4444. The home you save may be your own.

**Don't forget the SRFSC Golf Tournament "PLAY TO PROTECT" at the Vineyard on Saturday, Oct. 22.**

**To reach the SRFSC, please email us at [[info@SRFireSafeCouncil.org](mailto:info@SRFireSafeCouncil.org)] or call us at 945-6303.**