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Burleson homes are safer today thanks to teamwork.

On Aug. 29, more than 50 people representing the Red Cross, Burleson fire marshal's office and fire department, as well as community volunteers canvassed the neighborhoods for the American Red Cross Home Fire Preparedness Campaign. The goal was to provide and install smoke detectors where needed.

In a four-hour span of time, 14 teams reached out to 412 homes, checked 20 alarms, installed 20 batteries, and installed 70 alarms. If residents weren't home, an informational door knocker was left on the front door.

"This was a group effort involving multiple agencies and it was very successful. I want to thank the American Red Cross and those who came out to help. We put up a lot more smoke detectors this year than I thought we would," Burleson Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton said. "Because of this team effort we have more citizens protected than we did before the campaign. I hope we can spread this program into other areas of town."

The Home Fire Preparedness Campaign is a multi-year strategy for the American Red Cross. The goals are to save lives that are lost to preventable causes like fires, disasters, choking and cardiac arrest. According to Red Cross, seven times a day someone dies in a home fire. Every 40 minutes, an injury from a fire is reported. Nearly 1,000 times a day fire departments are called to home fires. Data shows that 4 percent of homes without smoke alarms represent nearly 40 percent of the home fires and that working smoke alarms can double someone's chance of surviving a fire. The national goal for Red Cross, each year, is to install 500,000 smoke alarms.

It's not enough to check your smoke alarm battery every time the time changes (March and November). Smoke alarms have lives of their own and expire after about 10 years or 87,000 hours of service. If you aren't sure when your smoke alarm was installed, check the back of it for the date.