



February 8, 2010
PR# 10-011

Fire Fatality in Sitka Prompts Safety Reminders

(SITKA, Alaska)— On Thursday February 4, 2010, a fire fatality occurred in Sitka, Alaska. The victim was an adult male. Positive identification of the victim is underway. Investigation shows that the fire occurred inside of an efficiency apartment attached to a home. The man was unable to escape the fire as it blocked his only escape from the bedroom. The bedroom did not have windows and only had a single door as an exit. It is not clear if the smoke alarm in the efficiency apartment was in operation.

The homeowners of the attached home were awakened by their smoke alarms and were able to escape the blaze. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

It is very important for Alaskans to remember that all bedrooms should have two ways out. A working smoke alarm in each bedroom, as well as in the area outside of the bedrooms, is an integral part of any home.

The Alaska State Fire Marshal's Office strongly encourages families to make an escape plan for all ways out of each room in a home. These plans should be practiced regularly. You can sign up for a free monthly email reminder to check your smoke alarms at www.burny.alaska.gov.

Alaska residents with questions and/or concerns about updated smoke alarm recommendations may contact the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety at (907) 746-5062 or visit its website www.burny.alaska.gov.

*Please refer inquiries on the fire to the Sitka Police Department.

For More Information:

Mahlon Greene, Public Education Coordinator
Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety
(907) 746-5062
mahlon.greene@alaska.gov