



WHITESTOWN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

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WHITESTOWN FAMILY'S STORY: SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

Whitestown Mother Believes Smoke Detectors Saved Her Two Teens

WHITESTOWN – It's a reminder you hear twice a year every year. Fire departments nationwide urge residents to use Daylight Saving Time as a reminder to check the batteries in their smoke detectors. It's a tip that may go easily ignored. But one Whitestown family learned the life-saving lesson first hand earlier this year.

On the morning of January 9th 2016, Cassy and Matthew Pullen had already left for work when a fire broke out inside their home. Two of their three teenage children were home, fast asleep inside. But luckily, the Pullen's had working smoke detectors that woke the children up, allowing them to escape the potentially deadly smoke and flames just in time. The flames spread quickly, destroying the Pullen family's home and everything in it in just a matter of minutes despite the extremely fast, multi-agency response.

The Whitestown community quickly pulled together to collect clothes and raise money for the family. Cassy Pullen had this to say on Facebook: "Thank you everyone for your prayers. They are greatly appreciated. The kids were home but thankful for working smoke detectors. They woke the kids up so they were able to get out unharmed. We lost pretty much everything else. Continued prayers for the adjustments ahead."

Losing their homes has, of course, been difficult for all members of the family. The children, who are heavily involved in 4-H, have struggled to take care of their animals since they can no longer live on the property where their barn is located. But the Pullen's plan to rebuild. And they know they are lucky to be planning their new home instead of planning any funerals.

This weekend as we ‘Spring Forward’ and change all the clocks in our homes, Whitestown Fire Chief Josh Westrich reminds all residents to also change the batteries in their smoke detectors. It’s a task that takes just a few minutes, but really does save lives. Just ask the Pullen family.

Fast Facts:

- Thousands of people are killed in house fires ever year
- Recent research shows families have an average of just 3 to 4 minutes to escape a house fire once it starts
- Daylight Saving Time is also a good time to discuss your family’s escape plan
- The WFD is glad to help elderly or disabled residents change their smoke detector batteries. Just email or call Lt. Brandi Cunningham at:
bcunningham@whitestown.in.gov or (317) 732-4607

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