

Osaka Gas and the Cities of Kyoto and Kobe Conclude an Agreement on Cooperative Educational Activities on Fire Prevention

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Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (President: Takehiro Honjo, hereinafter, “Osaka Gas”) and the city of Kyoto (mayor: Daisaku Kadokawa) and the city of Kobe (mayor: Kizo Hisamoto) concluded today an Agreement on Cooperative Educational Activities on Fire Prevention (hereinafter, “the Agreement”). Under the Agreement, the three parties will work together to promote the installation of residential fire alarms and the replacement of old ones that were installed 10 or more years ago.

Residential fires kill over 800 people (nationwide) annually, with about half of the victims failing to escape in time.*¹ Residential fire alarms, which detect smoke and heat, and sound an alarm, are helpful in putting out a fire in its early stage and enabling residents to escape in time. They are required by the Fire Service Act to be installed in every housing unit.*² It is recommended that residential fire alarms be replaced every ten years, because they may not work properly due to dead batteries or the ending of the alarm’s product life. With the spread of residential fire alarms, it is becoming a pressing issue to ensure that out-of-date alarms are replaced by new ones.

*1 Source: 2018 White Paper on Fire Service released by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

*2 Installation in newly built housing units became mandatory in June 2006. Installation in existing housing units was also made compulsory, by the end of May 2011, by municipal ordinances.

Osaka Gas has been selling the Kemupiko residential fire alarm system since 2006. We are aware of the time limit for replacing each Kemupiko unit that has been installed, and notify its user before the time comes.

From now on, in cooperation with the cities of Kyoto and Kobe, Osaka Gas will reach out to the users of residential fire alarms from other manufacturers as well, to widely publicize the need to maintain and replace fire alarms to ensure that they work properly in time of need.

We will continue to promote the installation of residential fire alarms and the replacement of out-of-date ones, reducing the death toll of residential fires and the number of people who fail to escape in time and contributing to a safe and secure living environment.

Major activities decided upon in the Agreement:

- (1) Develop publicity materials to promote the installation and maintenance of residential fire alarms
- (2) Appeal for fire prevention by displaying and distributing the publicity materials set forth in the preceding item, monitor the progress of the installation and maintenance of residential fire alarms, and promote the spread of the alarms
- (3) Appeal for fire prevention in other ways based on mutual consultation