

Osaka Gas Concludes Agreement with Sakai City Fire Bureau on Collaboration in Fire Prevention Awareness-Raising

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Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (President: Takehiro Honjo; hereinafter, "Osaka Gas") today concluded an Agreement on Collaboration in Fire Prevention Awareness-Raising (hereinafter, "the agreement") with the Sakai City Fire Bureau (Director: Fumio Matsumoto). Based on the agreement, both parties will collaborate in promoting more widespread use of household fire alarms and facilitating the replacement of household fire alarms that have exceeded 10 years since their installation.

More than 800 people are killed by house fires nationwide annually, with about 50% of the casualties caused by failure to escape in time.*¹ Household fire alarms detect smoke and heat and inform the residents by sounding an alarm, helping them extinguish the fire earlier and enabling them to escape in time. For this reason, the Fire Service Act requires all houses in Japan to be installed with fire alarms.*²

Since fire alarms might not work appropriately due to battery run-out or short remaining lifespan, it is recommended that fire alarms be replaced with new ones every 10 years. Therefore, the challenges we face include not only continuing to spread the use of household fire alarms but also ensuring that fire alarms that have exceeded the 10-year period are appropriately replaced.

- * 1 Source: *FY2018 White Paper on Fire Service*, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
- * 2 In June 2006, the installation of fire alarms in newly built houses became mandatory. The owners of older houses were also required by the relevant municipal ordinances to install fire alarms in their houses by the end of May 2011.

Since 2006, Osaka Gas has been marketing Kemupiko, a model of household fire alarm, managing the replacement periods of Kemupiko installed in customers' houses and informing them of the necessity of replacement before the periods expire.

Osaka Gas will take advantage of this collaboration with the Sakai City Fire Bureau to disseminate information about the necessity of fire alarm maintenance and replacement to a wider range of customers, including users of household fire alarms marketed by other companies, with the aim of ensuring that all installed fire alarms work appropriately when they are most needed.

We at Osaka Gas will continue sustained efforts to promote more widespread use of household fire alarms and facilitate the replacement of household fire alarms whose replacement periods are about to expire, in order to help enable people to escape from house fires and minimize house fire casualties, and contribute to building safe and secure local communities.

<Outline of the Agreement on Collaboration in Fire Prevention Awareness-Raising>

- (1) Creating PR materials designed to promote more widespread use of household fire alarms and raise public awareness of appropriate fire alarm maintenance
- (2) Displaying and distributing PR materials mentioned in the previous paragraph to disseminate fire prevention information, check the current status of household fire alarm installation and maintenance, and promote more widespread use of household fire alarms
- (3) Conducting other fire prevention promotion activities in arrangement with each other