

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

Almost 2/3 of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms.

Having working, properly installed, and maintained smoke alarms in your home greatly increases the chances that you and your family will survive a home fire.

Installing Smoke Alarms

Install smoke alarms on every level of your house (including basements), outside sleeping areas, and inside each bedroom.



Place smoke alarms on ceilings or high on walls. Smoke alarms placed on walls should be no more than 12 inches from the ceiling.



If possible, install "dual sensor" alarms for maximum protection.

Smoke alarms should be placed at least 10 feet from cooking appliances to reduce false alarms.



Make sure you select smoke alarms approved by a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriter's Laboratory.



To avoid air currents, never install smoke alarms near vents, doors, or windows.



Consider installing "interconnected" smoke alarms. When one alarm sounds, the rest of the alarms will sound.



Smoke Alarm Essentials

If you don't maintain your smoke alarms, it's like having no smoke alarms at all!

- Test your smoke alarm every month, whether it's battery powered or hardwired.
- Replace 9-volt batteries at least twice per year or if the alarm "chirps."
- Replace the entire unit every 8 to 10 years or according to the manufacturer's instructions.



Never disable your smoke alarm because it goes off while you're cooking. Instead:

- Press the alarm's "hush" button.
- Open a window or door to ventilate the area.
- Wave a towel underneath the alarm to clear the air.
- Move the alarm to a location farther away from the kitchen.



Be Fire Ready Every Day!

- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Have a Fire Escape Plan with 2 ways out of every room in your home.
- Have a Safe Meeting Place outside that is safely away from your home.
- Make sure that everyone knows how to call for help in an emergency.
- Never go back inside a burning building for any reason.
- Practice fire drills during the day and at night.

Test Your Alarms Every Month!