

10 WAYS TO STAY SAFE WITH SMOKE ALARMS



1 UNDERSTAND HOW SMOKE ALARMS WORK

Smoke alarms detect fires by sensing small particles in the air. Once they sense those particles above a certain level, they signal the alarm to sound.

2 INSTALLING SMOKE ALARMS

Install smoke alarms on every level of your house, including the basement. Put them outside of sleeping areas and inside each room.

3 PLACING SMOKE ALARMS

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

4 MAINTAINING SMOKE ALARMS

Test your smoke alarms every month, whether it is battery-powered or hardwired. Replace the 9-volt battery at least twice per year or if the alarm "chirps."

5 REPLACING SMOKE ALARMS

Replace the entire unit every 8 to 10 years or according to the manufacturer's instructions. Newer smoke alarms are better at avoiding false alarms and signaling real fires more quickly.

6 PREVENT FIRE AND SMOKE IN THE KITCHEN

Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food. Stay at home while simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food. This will help you react quickly if your kitchen alarm goes off.

7 DON'T LET FALSE ALARMS THREATEN YOUR HOME

Some activities, such as cooking or even turning on a toaster, can activate the alarm. Nobody enjoys the sound of a smoke alarm, but do not disable the alarm. Remember that the alarm is there to protect you and those you love.

8 BE FIRE READY EVERY DAY

Make sure everyone knows the sound of the smoke alarm. Have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room. Choose a safe meeting place outside that is safely away from your home. Make sure everyone knows how to call for help in an emergency.

9 SAFETY FIRST

Having a smoke alarm that is properly installed and maintained greatly increases your family's chances of surviving a home fire. It could mean the difference between life and death.

10 THE GOLDEN RULE

Always remember the most important rule of fire safety: If there is a fire in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT, and CALL 9-1-1. DO NOT GO BACK INTO A BURNING BUILDING.

SMOKE ALARM FACTS

Smoke alarms save lives. Alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. They provide the early warning you need to get out.

Almost 60% of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no working smoke alarms.

Children under 15 make up 11% of home fire deaths and 9% of home fire injuries. The majority of deaths are people 55 and older.

Smoke alarms are highly effective at reducing fire deaths and injuries.

If you have an older friend or neighbor, please help them check their smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.

