

# SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

BE FIRE READY EVERY DAY

SMOKE ALARMS SHOULD BE INTERCONNECTED. WHEN ONE SOUNDS, THEY ALL SOUND.

## SMOKE ALARMS 101

Having working, correctly installed, and properly maintained smoke alarms in your home greatly increases the chances that you and your family will survive a home fire. It could mean the difference between life and death. They detect smoke by sensing small particles in the air. Once they detect those particles above a certain level, they signal the alarm to sound so that you and your family can get to safety and call 9-1-1.

## BE FIRE READY EVERY DAY

**Sound:** Make sure everyone knows the sound of the smoke alarm.

**Plan:** Have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.

**Meet:** Have a safe meeting place outside that is safely away from your home.

**Call:** Make sure everyone knows to call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

## DON'T LET FALSE ALARMS THREATEN YOUR FAMILY

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. The research is clear. Smoke alarms are highly effective at reducing fire deaths and injuries.





**EVERY  
YEAR AN  
ESTIMATED  
2,620 PEOPLE  
DIE IN HOME  
FIRES.**

## **INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE**

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your house (including basements), outside sleeping areas, and inside each bedroom.
- Place them on ceilings or on walls where they are less than 12 inches from the ceiling.
- Test your smoke alarm every month.
- Replace the batteries every six months.
- Replace the entire unit every 8 to 10 years.

## **KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY**

Smoke alarms can be activated by what's going on in the kitchen, as cooking can be a source of both smoke and fire. To help you react quickly if your kitchen alarm goes off and to make sure that there are no false alarms, you should always stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food and stay in the home while simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food.

**IF YOU HAVE AN OLDER FRIEND  
OR NEIGHBOR, HELP THEM  
CHECK THEIR SMOKE ALARMS.**