

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms can save your life. Having working smoke alarms in your home is very important.

on call
24/7

Adults should buy, install and check all of your alarms, but you can learn about smoke alarms and help remind them of what to do.

Smoke alarms sense the rising smoke from a fire, then sound a piercing alarm. It may seem like a smoke alarm just sits and waits for a fire before it works, but a smoke alarm is working every minute. It monitors the air 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

An ionization smoke alarm goes through 3.5 million monitoring cycles in ten years. In a photoelectric smoke alarm there is a light on constantly looking for smoke coming into the sensing chamber.



Have a smoke alarm on every level of your home - by the bedrooms or other sleeping areas, and in the basement.



Most home fires happen during the sleeping hours. A working smoke alarm can double your family's chances of surviving a fire.

1. Never be afraid. Get out fast.
2. Follow your Home Fire Escape Plan.
3. Choose a Safe Meeting Place.
4. Know 2 exits from every room.
5. Crawl low below the smoke.
6. Know how to report a fire. Call from a neighbor's phone or an alarm box.
7. Never go back inside for anything.
8. Wait until an adult or firefighter says it's safe before going back inside.
9. Stop, drop, and roll if your clothes catch on fire.



Know what to do...
if a smoke alarm sounds.

Be a pal!
Ask other family members, friends, and neighbors to test, replace, and clean their smoke alarms, too.

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To exit, crawl low below the smoke. Crawl on your hands and knees all the way out if necessary.

Most fatal home fires happen when people are asleep. People do not usually wake up from the smell of smoke. Smoke is the most dangerous part of fire. Smoke contains poisonous gases that deepen sleep.

A working smoke alarm will wake people up in time to escape from fire.

Hey, I didn't know that... Smoke, not heat, is the leading cause of death in home fires. Smoke can engulf a home in under 10 minutes.

Smoke alarms beep loudly when smoke or fire is near.

National Fire Safety Council, Inc.

Arm your **Smoke Alarm.**TM



Keep your family safe from harm!



Did You Know?

Smoke alarms are important!

- * Every 20 minutes a person is injured in a fire.
- * Every 2 hours someone dies in a fire.
- * Fires are the second leading cause of accidental death in a home.
- * Children and the elderly are at twice the risk of dying or being injured in a house fire.
- * People have nearly a 50% better chance of surviving a fire if their home has the recommended number of working smoke alarms.

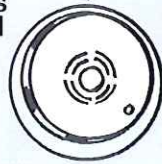
Right on!



At least 4" from the nearest wall.

Because smoke rises, install smoke alarms high on a wall or on the ceiling.

4" - 10"

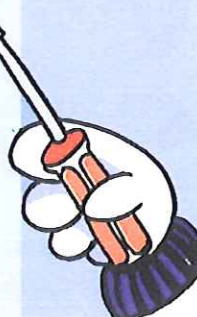


At least 4" - 10" from the ceiling.

Never install:

- near a window.
- near a door.
- near a forced air register where drafts can interfere with the alarm's operation.

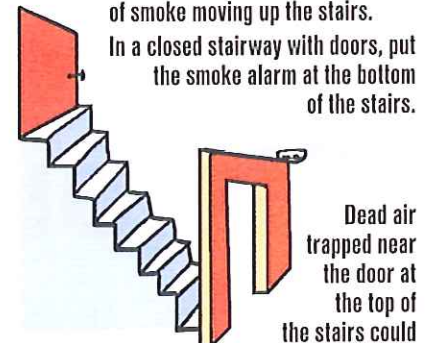
It's easy to be safe!



Watch your step!



In an open stairway, put the smoke alarm in the path of smoke moving up the stairs.



In a closed stairway with doors, put the smoke alarm at the bottom of the stairs.

Dead air trapped near the door at the top of the stairs could prevent smoke from sounding the alarm.



A clean alarm is a safe alarm!

Cleaning your smoke alarm often is important.

Smoke alarms have small screens around the sensing chamber. They help keep small bugs and dust out. If dust settles in the screens it can cause slow air movement.

Cleaning is easy. Just vacuum around the outside of the alarm at least once a year. Never take the cover off the alarm or paint it.



Make sure all of your smoke alarms have the label of an independent testing laboratory.

The 10-year rule!

Like any appliance, the working parts of a smoke alarm can fail or wear out over time. Replace all smoke alarms that are ten years old or older.

Arm your alarms!

Replace the battery in your smoke alarm at least twice a year. A good time is when you change your clocks, or pick an important date - holiday, birthday, or other special day.

A smoke alarm will make a "chirping" sound every minute to let you know the battery is low and needs to be replaced.

It's a test!

Smoke Alarm Check-up

Once a month test every smoke alarm in your home. Check off each month after you test the alarms.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC



Over 93% of all homes have at least one smoke alarm, however 1/3 to 1/2 (or 16 million!) may not work because the battery is dead or missing.

Never borrow the battery to use somewhere else.

