

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Fact Sheet



Smoke alarms are **a key part** of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast.

Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Safety Tips

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Facts

- A **closed door** can help slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Smoke alarms should be installed **inside every sleeping room**, outside each separate sleeping area, and **on every level**. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- Roughly **3 out of 5** fire deaths happen in homes when there are no smoke alarms or no smoke alarms that work.