

Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

Most home fire fatalities occur at night while people are asleep. If a fire occurs in your home, your chances of survival are increased by 50% if smoke detectors are present and working.

What do I do?

There are 2 things that you need to do:

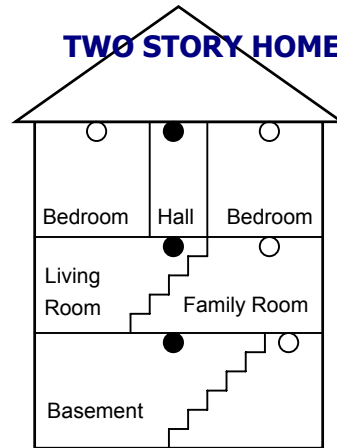
- 1) Purchase, install, and maintain smoke detectors in your home.
- 2) Develop and practice a home escape plan with your family.

How Many and Where?

For minimum protection, install smoke detectors, outside each sleeping area, and for homes with more than one floor or basements, place one on every level of your home (including the basement).

For maximum life saving coverage the Fire Department recommends installing smoke detectors in each bedroom, on every level of your home, and in every living area.

In newer homes or ones that have been remodeled, Fire Codes may require the maximum coverage in order to meet the Fire Code.



● = Smoke Detectors for **Minimum** Protection
 + ○ = Smoke Detectors for **Maximum** Protection
 Fire Codes may require the maximum coverage in some homes.

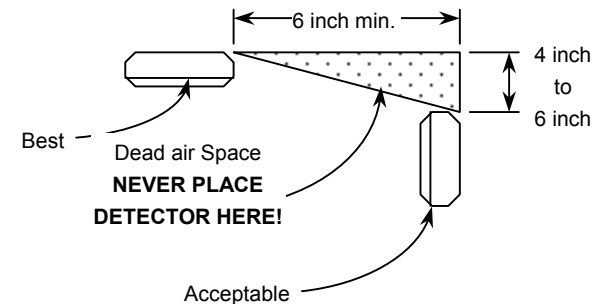
Nuisance Alarms

If a detector regularly responds to cooking smoke or shower steam, consider the following:

- ◆ Replace the detector with one that has the silence button feature.
- ◆ Move the detector further away to give smoke or steam a chance to dissipate before reaching the unit.
- ◆ If ceiling mounted, move unit to a wall.
- ◆ If the detector is the ionization type, replace it with a photoelectric detector. This type of detector is less sensitive to smaller particles and thus less affected by cooking smoke or small amounts of steam. Packaging and/or owner's manual will indicate type.

Installing Smoke Detectors

- ◆ Mount smoke detectors in the middle of the ceiling, if possible.
- ◆ For wall-mounted units, place them at least 3' from any corner and 4-6" from the ceiling.
- ◆ Do not install smoke detectors near heating or cooling ducts.
- ◆ In mobile home units, install smoke detectors on inside walls.



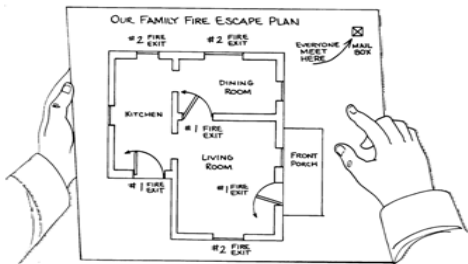
Maintenance

- ◆ Test smoke detectors every month. For hard to reach units, use a broom handle or stick to press the test button.
- ◆ Replace batteries once a year. Use daylight savings time as your reminder. "Change your clocks...change your batteries."
- ◆ If the low-battery signal begins to chirp, replace battery immediately!

- ◆ Vacuum the outside covers periodically to remove dust and dirt particles.

Escape Planning

- ◆ Develop an emergency escape plan that includes two exits out of every room and a meeting place outside. (e.g., mailbox or tree.)
- ◆ Teach children how to operate window locks. Second story windows may need a chain ladder to enable a safe escape.
- ◆ Consider that family members with special needs may need assistance.
- ◆ Practice your plan with **all** members of the household.



Safety Tips

- ◆ Sleep with your bedroom doors closed. This slows the spread of smoke and flames.
- ◆ Purchase and use ashtrays that have the center support feature and never smoke in bed.

- ◆ Do not leave candles or space heaters unattended.
- ◆ Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

Be Safe...Replace!

- ◆ Smoke detectors monitor the air 24 hours a day, every day. After 10 years, it's been on the job for over 87,000 hours.
- ◆ For best protection, replace your smoke detectors every 5-10 years.

Failure predictions:

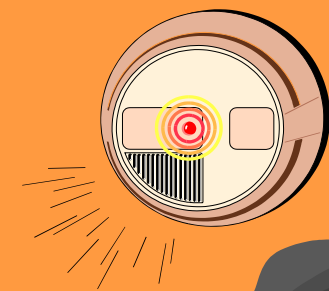
- ☆ First year: 2-3%
- ☆ Second to 10th year: 16-30%
- ☆ More than 10 years old: 30-50%
- ◆ Do you remember when you installed your smoke detectors or how old they were when you moved in?
 - ➔ If you are not sure, it is best to replace them immediately!

**For All Emergencies
Dial 9-1-1**

**For more information contact:
San Jose Fire Department
Office of Public Education
408-277-2878
www.sjfd.org**

San Jose Fire Department

SMOKE DETECTORS



**Can Save Your
Life!**

**Every year in
the US, 5,000 people are
killed in house fires!**

**A working smoke detector
cuts your risk of being
injured or dying by 50%!**