



Smoke Alarm Facts

Three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.*

More than one-third (38 percent) of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present.*

The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.*



What To Do When a Smoke Alarm Sounds

During a real fire in your home, remember to get out first and then call 9-1-1 for help. Never go back into a burning building for any reason. Firefighters have the skills and equipment necessary to perform rescues.



Don't Forget to Install CO Detectors

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly, invisible gas formed by the incomplete combustion of fuels. In addition to smoke alarms, CO detectors should also be installed throughout your home. Combination smoke and CO detectors can be purchased at a wide variety of retail stores.

Smoke Alarms at Home



Smoke alarms are a key part of your home fire escape plan. When there's a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you an early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Safety Tips

- **Install smoke alarms throughout your home.** Install them in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home—including basements and attics. Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- **Place smoke alarms up high.** Smoke alarms should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from kitchen appliances (they should be at least 10 feet from the stove) and fireplaces to reduce false alarms.
- **Install interconnected smoke alarms.** This type of smoke alarm allows all the smoke alarms in your home to sound if one has detected smoke. They help provide improved protection and offer more escape time in a fire.
- **Test your smoke alarms every month.** A non-working smoke alarm may leave you and your family unprotected. To test a smoke alarm, press and hold the test button until you hear a chirp. If you don't hear anything, or the sound is quiet, it's time to replace the batteries.
- **Replace the batteries once a year.** Smoke alarms need a strong power supply to be loud. Working batteries that aren't fresh might not have enough power to get the job done. Even if you have hardwired alarms, you should have a battery back-up in case of a power failure.
- **Replace smoke alarm units every 10 years.** Smoke alarms don't last forever. If you forget how old your smoke alarm is, you can usually find a date written on the back.
- **Special alarms are available for those who are hard-of-hearing.** People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing should use alarms with strobe lights. Most major smoke alarm companies offer these types of alarms.

