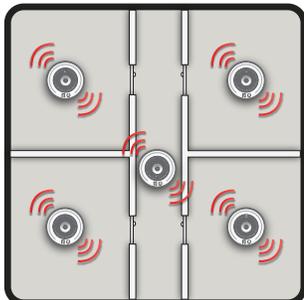


# Smoke Alarm Safety Tips and Reminders

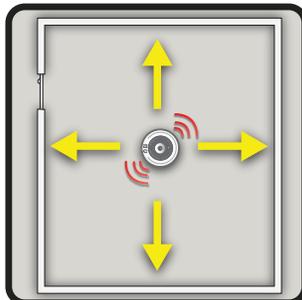
Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Follow these simple tips to ensure your home is adequately protected by smoke alarms.



Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.



Choose alarms that bear the label of a nationally-recognized testing laboratory.



If possible, alarms should be mounted in the center of the ceiling.



Test smoke alarms on a monthly basis by pressing the TEST button.



Batteries for battery-operated or battery back-up alarms should be replaced at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps" or "beeps," it should be replaced immediately.



Keep the exterior of the smoke alarm clear. Never paint over a smoke alarm and occasionally dust or lightly vacuum the exterior to remove cobwebs.



All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every ten years, or sooner if indicated in the manufacturer's instructions.

- For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that they all sound if one sounds. Manufacturers are now producing battery operated alarms that are interconnected by wireless technology.
- Combination smoke alarms that include both ionization and photoelectric alarms offer the most comprehensive protection. An ionization alarm is more responsive to flames, while a photoelectric alarm is more responsive to a smoldering fire.
- Hardwired smoke alarms with battery backups are considered to be more reliable than those operated solely by batteries.
- Install smoke alarms at least 10 feet from cooking appliances to reduce the possibility of nuisance alarms. Alarms installed between 10-20 feet of a cooking appliance must have a hush feature to temporarily reduce the alarm sensitivity or must be a photoelectric alarm.
- If possible, alarms should be mounted in the center of a ceiling. If mounted on a wall, they should be located 6 to 12 inches below the ceiling.
- Avoid locating alarms near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows or ceiling fans.