

Smoke Alarms

Facts About Smoke Alarms



- ◆ Over 93 percent of homes in the U.S. have at least one smoke alarm.
- ◆ Over the years, as the number of smoke alarms in homes has gone up, the residential fire death rate has gone down nearly 50 percent. This shows how important it is to have a working smoke alarm in the home.

HOWEVER. . . .

- * Experts estimate that 1 in 3 homes have a smoke alarm that does not work.
- * Some fire departments report that half of the homes have a smoke alarm that does not work.



The two most common reasons for inoperable smoke alarms in homes are:

- 1) Disabling (*taking the battery out or disconnecting*) the smoke alarm to prevent it from making “annoying” sounds.
- 2) Not replacing the smoke alarm every 10 years.



Safety Tips

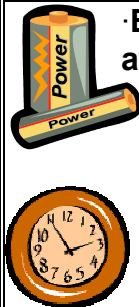
- * Smoke alarms that are 10 years old are near the end of their “service life” and should be replaced.
- * Smoke alarms that are wired into a home’s electrical system should also be replaced every 10 years.
- * Every home should have a smoke alarm outside each bedroom area. The alarm should be close enough to be heard through closed doors.



- * There should **ALWAYS** be at least one smoke alarm on each level of the home. If a home is large, it is better to use more than one smoke alarm on each level.



- * Every smoke alarm comes with a test button. People should test their alarms regularly, at least once a month.



Batteries should be replaced at twice a year. One way to remember is to replace the battery in the spring and fall when you change your clock to daylight savings time. If you did not change the batteries in your smoke alarm when you changed your clock, it is **NOT TOO LATE**, you can still do it **TODAY**.