

Smoke Alarms 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 alarms are present and working.

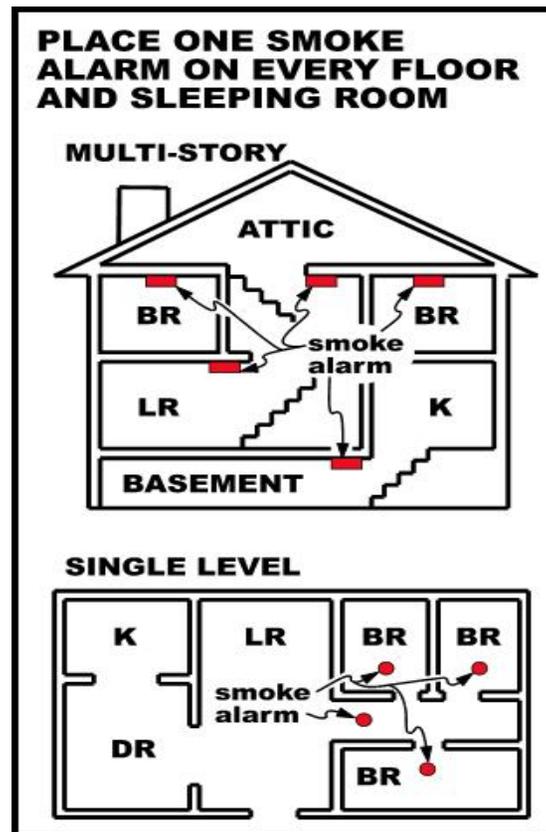
What Should I do?

1. Install and maintain smoke alarms in your home.
2. Develop and practice a home escape plan with your family.

Maintenance

- ◆ Test alarms every month. Press the test button with a broom handle or stick if out of reach.
- ◆ Replace batteries once a year. "Change your clocks...change your batteries."
- ◆ If the alarm begins to chirp, replace battery immediately!

- ◆ Vacuum the outside covers periodically to remove dust and dirt particles.
- ◆ Never remove smoke alarm batteries to use for other devices such as toys or TV remotes.



Note: All of the above are required by code for new construction and most remodels.

Alarm Selection

To maximize protection and prevent nuisance activation:

1. Install photoelectric smoke alarms, which are more resistant to steam and cooking. Look for (P) on the packaging in the store.
2. Dual Sensor (Photo/Ion) alarms should be located more than 20 feet away from a kitchen, and more than 20 feet from bathrooms with a tub or shower.
3. Ionization (I) smoke alarms are **NOT RECOMMENDED**, due to excessive nuisance alarms and poor performance in deadly smoldering fires.
4. Install a carbon monoxide alarm if you have an attached garage or gas burning equipment in your home.

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!

For best protection, **replace** all smoke alarms with photoelectric or dual sensor models **every 5-10 years**.

Any smoke alarm made in the last 10 years has the date displayed on the back cover or inside.

If you cannot find a date, you should replace the alarm immediately!

Typical Failure Rates

- ! First year: 2-3%
- ! Second to tenth year: 16-30%
- ! More than 10 years old: **30-50%**

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

SMOKE ALARMS

Can Save Your Life!



Palo Alto Fire Department

Fire Prevention Bureau
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650-329-2184

fire@cityofpaloalto.org

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/fire>