Smoke Alarm Op-Ed

Smoke Alarms – A Sound You Can Live With  
Replace Aging Smoke Alarms

The one time we think about the smoke alarms in our homes is when we move in, or maybe once in a while when we change the batteries. But unless the smoke alarm goes off, or it chirps to remind us to change the batteries, we pretty much take them for granted. Do you remember the last time you replaced your smoke alarms? Was it more than ten years ago? When you moved into or built your home? If you don’t remember, it may be time to do so. Like every other appliance in our home, they don’t last forever. Smoke alarms have a lifespan of about ten years according to the major manufacturers and after that should be replaced. The sensing mechanisms get old, wear out, and are just no longer reliable. Every smoke alarm produced in the last ten years has a manufacture date stamped on the back that says how old it is. If a smoke alarm does not, then it is already more than ten years old and needs to be replaced. Working smoke alarms save lives. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Smoke alarms and a practiced home escape plan can cut the chances of dying in a fire in half.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT