

Smoke Alarms Save Lives



You may have less than three minutes to escape a fire at home.

- Having working smoke alarms in your home can double your chances of survival if a fire occurs.
- Home fire deaths have been cut in half since the early 1970's when smoke alarms were first marketed.

Smoke alarms can't help you if they are missing or don't work

- Tragically more than 3,000 people still die in fires each year in the U.S.
- Almost 60% of home fire deaths take place in homes without working smoke alarms.

Be safe, be aware, be protected

- Install smoke alarms throughout your home, on every level (including the basement).
- Test them monthly.
- Replace alkaline batteries when you change your clocks.
- Never disable alarms or take out the batteries while cooking.

Fires produce heat, smoke, and toxic gases.

Smoke alarms warn residents in the event of a fire. They alert you and give you a chance to leave the building before your escape route is blocked by deadly smoke, heat and

toxic gases.

When the alarm sounds:

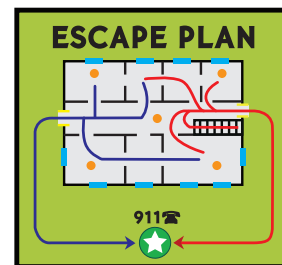
- Leave the building.
- **Get out, Stay out!**
- Go to the family meeting place.
- Call 9-1-1 from outdoors or from a neighbor's home.

Special smoke alarms are available for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

A vibrating alert unit can also be used under a pillow while the person is asleep. Consider a bedside device that senses the sound of smoke alarms.

Plan and practice a home fire escape route.

- Have two ways out of every room.
- Discuss the plan so each member of the family understands what to do in case of emergency.



- Choose a place outside the home where family members can meet to be sure everyone is safely out of the building.

(over)



Department of Fire Services
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**Practice, practice, practice...
Conduct drills frequently so actions
become automatic behaviors.**

- Hold a family fire drill during the day while everyone is awake and another one at night while children are asleep to see how they respond.
- Following the drill, make adjustments to the plan.
- Young children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need extra assistance.
- Consider purchasing a folding escape ladder as a secondary means of exit from upper floors.

All homes need fire protection.

All homes in Massachusetts are required to have smoke alarms and most are required to have carbon monoxide alarms.

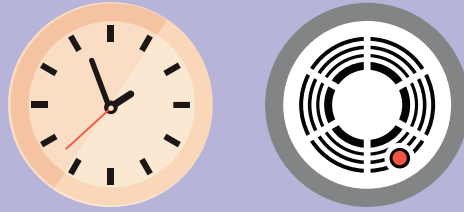
Contact your local fire department and ask about smoke alarm installation programs.

**General guidelines for
smoke alarm placement:**

- On every level of your home.
- In hallways outside the bedroom.
- At the top of open stairways.
- At the base of cellar stairs.
- Inside the bedroom for sound sleepers or smokers.
- Contact your local fire department for exact locations.



Change your clocks. Check your alarms.



**If your alarms are 10 years old,
replace them now.**

Maintenance:

- Once a month, vacuum or blow out dust from the alarms.
- Push the test button.
- If the alarm uses regular batteries, change them twice a year. An easy way to remember is to change the batteries when you change your clocks. A "chirping" sound indicates that it's time to change the batteries.
- Don't paint smoke alarms!

10-Year Lifespan

- Check the manufacturing date printed on the back of your alarms. Replace smoke alarms at or before 10 years.
- When purchasing a new smoke alarm, choose one with a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature. Select photo-electric alarms from a well-known, national brand.

**Test Smoke
Alarms Monthly**