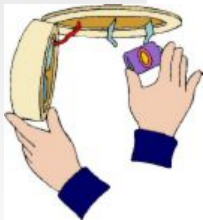


## Important Reminders

- Plan and practice escape plans with your family at least twice a year.
- Teach children when and how to call emergency telephone numbers.
- Keep a charged fire extinguisher handy, and know how to use it!
- Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home if you burn fuel like wood, oil or kerosene, etc. for heat or cooking.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly, and change batteries yearly, or sooner if you hear the “chirping” signal that the batteries are low.
- Do not remove batteries for other use, even temporarily. You may forget to replace them!
- If your smoke alarm does not have the manufacture date on it, write the date of purchase on the unit. Replace unit every 8—10 years.



## SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

*If a fire occurs in your home, your chances of survival are increased by 50% if properly working smoke alarms are present.*



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Allentown, PA 18104  
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Burn Prevention Foundation  
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# SMOKE ALARMS



*Most fire deaths are caused by smoke—not flames. Most fatal fires occur at night, when people are asleep. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms could save your life!*

## Why are smoke alarms important?

In the event of a fire, you have about two and a half minutes to get out of your home safely. Since most house fires occur when people are asleep, properly installed and maintained smoke alarms will provide an early warning alarm that will wake you and your family, giving you time to escape. In addition, the earlier a fire is discovered, the less damage there will be to your property.



## Where do I put them?

A smoke alarm should be located on every level of your home, including the basement. Consider placing one inside and outside sleeping areas. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions to be sure your smoke alarms are placed correctly on the ceiling or the wall. Avoid "dead air space" - where the ceiling and the wall meets and in corners.

## What kind should I buy?

Most general merchandise and home supply stores that have a hardware department carry smoke alarms. Many smoke alarms are inexpensive, but they still serve the purpose of providing an early warning signal. The important thing to know is that there are two basic types: ionization and photoelectric. **Ionization alarms** sound more quickly when a flaming, fast moving fire occurs.

**Photoelectric alarms** are quicker at sensing smoldering, smoking fires. There are also combination smoke



alarms that combine both types into one unit called **dual sensor smoke alarms**. Because it is impossible to predict what type of fire might start in a home, it is recommended that both types be installed, or install the dual sensor smoke alarms. There are also alarms made with strobe lights that flash and/or vibrate to meet the needs of people with hearing disabilities.

## How do I install the smoke alarm?

For battery powered smoke alarms, all you will need is a screw driver and the manufacturer's instructions. Some smoke alarms are adhesive-backed and require no other tools. If your smoke alarms are "hard wired" (connected to the household electrical system) you will need a qualified electrician to install them. Many hard wired alarms have battery backup in case of an electrical failure. Make sure you check batteries in your smoke alarms every month, and replace with fresh batteries yearly.

## What about maintenance?

- Vacuum and dust your smoke alarms regularly. Dust particles and webs can interfere with the smoke sensors.
- When replacing batteries, use only the batteries recommended by the manufacturer.
- All smoke alarms should be replaced with a new unit every 8—10 years.

