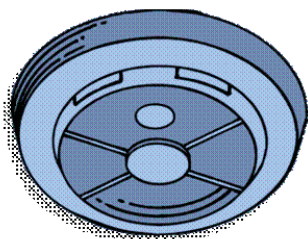


SMOKE ALARMS



**Can Save Your
LIFE!**



**Every year in the U.S.,
3,000 people are killed in
house fires!**

*A working smoke alarm
could save your life!*

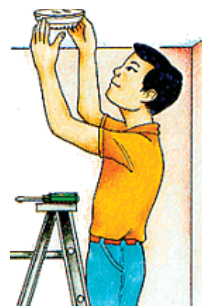
Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Most home fire fatalities occur at night while people are asleep. If a fire occurs in your home, a working smoke alarm will sound and greatly increase your chance of survival.

What do I do?

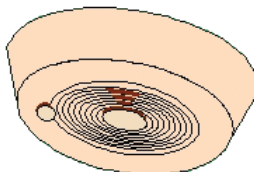
There are 2 things that you need to do:

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



How Many and Where?

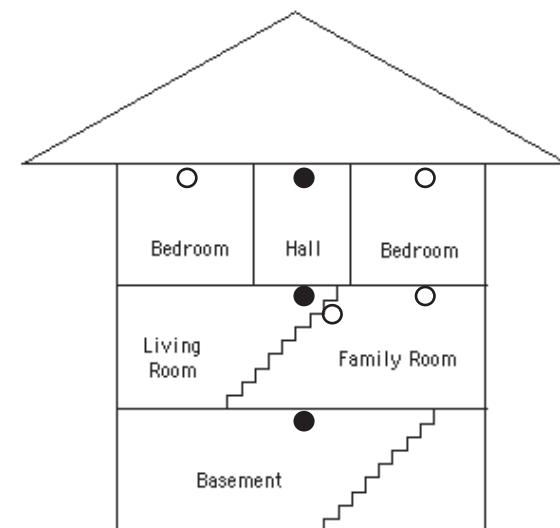
For minimum protection, install smoke alarms outside each sleeping area, and for homes with more than one floor or basements, place one on every level of your home (including the basement).



For maximum life saving coverage the Northshore Fire Department recommends installing smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside the sleeping area, on every level of your home, and in every living area. See diagram to the right.

In newer homes or in homes that have been remodeled, the International Fire Code may require maximum coverage.

TWO STORY HOME



● = Smoke Alarms for **Minimum** Protection
+ ○ = Smoke Alarms for **Maximum** Protection
The International Fire Code may require maximum coverage in new homes.

Nuisance Alarms

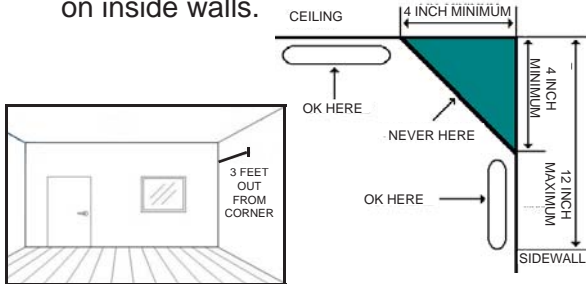
If a smoke alarm regularly responds to cooking smoke or shower steam, consider the following:

- Replace the alarm with one that has the silence button feature.
- Move the alarm further away to give smoke or steam a chance to dissipate before reaching the unit.
- If ceiling mounted, move unit to a wall.
- If the detector is the ionization type, replace it with a photoelectric smoke alarm. This type of alarm is less sensitive to smaller particles and thus less affected by cooking smoke or small amounts of steam. Packaging and/or owner's manual will indicate type.

continued

Installing Smoke Alarms

- Mount smoke alarms in the middle of the ceiling, if possible.
- For wall-mounted smoke alarms, the units should be located not less than 4 inches nor more than 12 inches from the ceiling to the top of the alarm, and at least 4 inches from any ceiling-wall junction. The smoke alarm should be at least 3 feet out from any corner.
- Do not install smoke alarms near heating or cooling ducts.
- In mobile homes, install smoke alarms on inside walls.



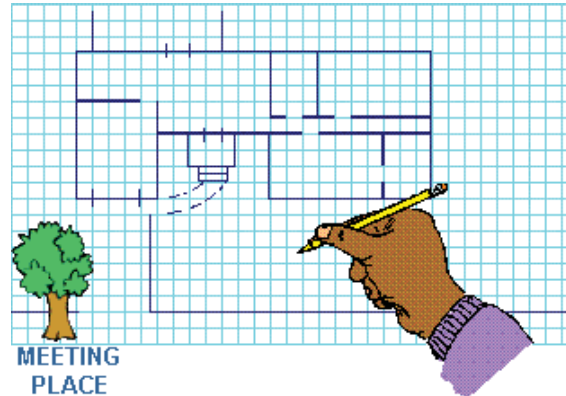
Maintenance

- Test smoke alarms every month. For hard to reach units, use a broom handle or stick to press the button.
- Replace batteries once a year. Use daylight-savings time as your reminder to “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery” (unless you have a 10-year lithium battery smoke alarm). Also change batteries in hard-wired smoke alarms with battery back-up.
- Remember that a “chirping” smoke alarm is a signal that it needs a fresh battery.
- Vacuum the outside covers periodically to remove dust and dirt particles.



Escape Planning

- Develop an emergency escape plan that includes two exits out of every room and a meeting place outside.
- Teach children how to operate window locks. Windows above the first story may need a home fire escape ladder (available at most home improvement stores) to enable a safe escape.
- Consider that family members with special needs may need assistance.
- Practice your plan with **all** members of the household.



Flashlights

Keep flashlights with fresh batteries at your bedside for help in finding the way out and signaling for help in the event of a fire. Consider a self-winding flashlight that doesn't require batteries.



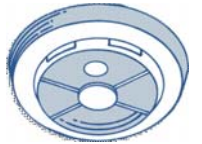
Safety Tips

- 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.
- Do not leave cooking unattended.
- Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

Be Safe . . . Replace!

- Smoke alarms monitor the air 24 hours a day, every day. After 10 years, it's been on the job for over 87,000 hours.
- For best protection, replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Do you remember when you installed your smoke alarms or how old they were when you moved in? If you're not sure it is best to replace them immediately.

REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS THAT ARE 10 YEARS OLD OR OLDER.



For EMERGENCIES Dial 911

For more information contact:

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