Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you an early warning so you can get outside quickly.

**SAFETY TIPS**

- **INSTALL** smoke alarms inside every bedroom, *(if bedroom doors are closed)* and outside each sleeping area *(if bedroom doors are open)* and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Larger homes may need **ADDITIONAL** smoke alarms to provide enough protection.
- An **IONIZATION** smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a **PHOTOELECTRIC** smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires.
- For the best protection, install a "**Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm**" which incorporates the features of both.
- Smoke and harmful gases rise, by installing a smoke alarm on a ceiling or high on a wall you will be provided with the earliest warning possible.
- **REPLACE** batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace that battery right away.
- A good rule of thumb is to change a smoke alarms battery when we change the clocks in the spring or fall.
- **REPLACE** all smoke alarms when they are 8 to 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.
- **FIRE WARNING EQUIPMENT** is available to awaken people who are deaf or hard of hearing. This equipment uses strobe lights and vibration equipment (pillow or bed shakers) for people who are deaf and mixed-low-frequency signals for people who are hard of hearing. Some of this equipment is activated by the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Teach children what a smoke alarm sounds like and what to do if they hear the alarm sound.
- **RENTERS** should discuss with the landlord if their rental unit is equipped with a working smoke alarm and who will replace the battery annually.
- **DISABLING A SMOKE ALARM or REMOVING THE BATTERY COULD BE A COSTLY MISTAKE!!!**

**Smoke alarm powered by a 10-year lithium (or “long life”) battery**

- Test alarm monthly.
- Since you cannot (and should not) replace the lithium battery, the entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced per manufacturer’s instructions.

**Smoke alarm powered by a 9-Volt battery**

- Test the alarm monthly.
- Replace the batteries at least once per year.
- The entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

**Smoke alarms hardwired into home’s electrical system**

- Test monthly
- Back-up battery replaced at least once per year
- The entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

**FACTS**

Approximately 3,500 Americans perish and over 18,000 are injured in fires each year.

Nearly 66% of home fire deaths occurred in properties without a working smoke alarm according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Having a functioning smoke alarm in your home increases your survival rate by 50%. 