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!!!**

**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%.