



**WILL YOUR SMOKE ALARM WAKE YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?**



Most fire deaths occur in the middle of the night. A smoke alarm is the single most valuable lifesaving device you can have in your home.

A working smoke alarm will reduce your chances of dying in a fire, nearly in half.

Smoke alarms are designed to detect and warn that silent, but deadly smoke is in the air. The early warning will wake you and your family, allowing time to implement your fire escape plan.

While 97 out of 100 homes have a smoke alarm, more than 33 percent of these homes are unprotected **because the smoke alarms don't work.**

When a smoke alarm fails to work, it is frequently because the batteries are missing. People often remove or disconnect batteries to prevent nuisance activation caused by bathroom steam or cooking vapors.

Disabled smoke alarms endanger your family, as well as your neighbors.

How to Protect Yourself, Your Family and Your Neighbors

- Install smoke alarms that have the Underwriters Laboratories **(UL) Mark**. The **(UL) Mark** tells you that the alarm has been evaluated according to nationally recognized safety requirements.
- There are two kinds of smoke alarms, **photoelectric and ionization**. Both are suitable for use in your home. The **photoelectric** alarms are the most reliable for smoldering fires, which may occur in bedrooms or living rooms. The **ionization** alarms are the most reliable for detecting flaming fires, which may occur in the kitchen or garage. Combination smoke alarms featuring both photoelectric and ionization technology also are available.



- **One smoke alarm in the home is not enough.** Install a smoke alarm on every level, including the basement. Place a smoke alarm within 15 feet of all sleeping areas. For added safety, install smoke alarms in every room where people sleep.

- Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling, preferably in the center of the room, but not less than 4 inches from a wall. If the smoke alarm is installed on a wall, it must be placed between 4 and 12 inches from the ceiling.

Photograph provided by The Pantagraph

Informational Source: NYFD

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

A Public Fire Safety Message from the Bloomington Fire Department

**YOUR SAFETY IS OUR MISSION
PROUDLY SERVING BLOOMINGTON SINCE 1868**





- **Make sure everyone in your home can recognize and be awakened by the sound of the smoke alarm.**

Some children and the elderly may not readily awake to the sound of the smoke alarm. Consider installing interconnected smoke alarms so that when one alarm senses smoke and sounds, they are all triggered throughout your home. Installing an alarm in each bedroom increases each person's proximity to a sounding device. If someone in your home is hearing-impaired, consider smoke alarms that use visible notifications, such as flashing strobe lights.

Nuisance Alarms

Smoke alarms frequently are set off by bathroom steam or cooking vapors. **Rather than take the battery out of your alarm, do the following:**

- Quiet the alarm by pushing the "HUSH" button, if equipped.
- Open windows and turn on vent fans to clear the air.
- Consider relocating the alarm farther away from the cooking area or bathroom.
- Consider installing a photoelectric or combination photoelectric/ionization type alarm. The photoelectric and combination type alarms are less sensitive to cooking smoke.

KEEP YOUR SMOKE ALARM WORKING!

**IT IS UP TO YOU TO MAKE SURE
YOUR SMOKE ALARM WILL
PROVIDE A LIFESAVING EARLY
WARNING IN THE EVENT OF A
FIRE!**

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of your smoke detector is important. You should follow these suggestions to keep your smoke alarms in good working condition:



- ◆ Keeping your smoke alarm clean is important. Dirt and dust inside can lead to false alarms. To clean the alarm, simply use your vacuum cleaner to remove dust from the detector's vents. Refer to the owner's manual for more detailed instructions.
- ◆ Test your smoke alarm batteries once a month. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations or depress the test button until you hear the alarm.
- ◆ Place a sticker or write a reminder on your calendar to help you remember to test your smoke alarms once a month. Place the sticker or written reminder on the first day of each month.
- ◆ Keep a supply of fresh replacement batteries on hand so that the smoke alarm is inoperable for only a minute or two.



***Change your smoke alarm batteries
twice a year.***

(Change your clock—change your battery)

Informational Source: NYFD

