



SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Smoke alarms are the most inexpensive and effective early-warning device available for your home. Consider the following facts about fire

1. In 2004 there were 3900 fire deaths and 17,785 injuries
2. 80% of all fire deaths occurred in residences
3. More than half of the fire deaths occurred at night.
4. 70% of all fire deaths occurred in homes without smoke alarms or without working smoke alarms.
5. Smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a fire in your home in half.

There are many reasonably priced smoke alarms available. Make sure you select a smoke alarm approved by an independent laboratory, such as UL, and that there is way to periodically test the smoke alarm.

Install smoke alarms on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area. Do not install near cooking appliances, fireplaces or forced air vents as these might affect the smoke alarm performance.

Working smoke alarms save lives. **Test** smoke alarms every month.

Replace smoke alarms that are more than ten years old.

Change the batteries at least once a year.

Recognize that studies have shown that children may not awaken to the sounds of the smoke alarm. Know what your child will do by practicing fire drills and having an escape plan.