

# DON'T WAIT! CHECK THE DATE!

REPLACE SMOKE  
ALARMS EVERY

**1**  **YEARS**

67% of people who die from home fires live in housing without smoke alarms or with smoke alarms that were not working. One out of every 5 homes doesn't have a single working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms do not last forever. Batteries and sensors can and do fail. To protect your home and family, you need to install, test monthly, maintain and replace smoke alarms that are 10 years old or older.

## INSTALLING SMOKE ALARMS



Install smoke alarms on every level of your house (including attics and basements), outside sleeping areas, and inside each bedroom.



Make sure you select smoke alarms approved by a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriter's Laboratory.

To avoid air currents, never install smoke alarms near vents, doors, or windows.

Place smoke alarms on ceilings or high on walls. Smoke alarms placed on walls should be no more than 12 inches from the ceiling.



If possible, install "dual sensor" alarms for maximum protection.



Consider installing "interconnected" smoke alarms. When one alarm sounds, the rest of the alarms will sound.



## SMOKE ALARM ESSENTIALS

*If you don't maintain your smoke alarms, it's like having no smoke alarms at all!*

- Test your smoke alarm every month, whether it's battery powered or hardwired.
- Replace 9-volt batteries at least twice per year or if the alarm "chirps."
- Replace the entire unit every 10 years or according to the manufacturer's instructions.



*Never disable your smoke alarm because it goes off while you're cooking. Instead:*

- Press the alarm's "hush" button.
- Open a window or door to ventilate the area.
- Wave a towel underneath the alarm to clear the air.
- Move the alarm to a location farther away from the kitchen.



## Be Fire Ready Every Day!



- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Have a Fire Escape Plan with 2 ways out of every room in your home.
- Have a Safe Meeting Place outside that is safely away from your home.
- Make sure that everyone knows how to call for help in an emergency.
- Never go back inside a burning building for any reason.
- Practice fire drills during the day and at night.

**WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!**