SMOKE DETECTOR

SAFETY TIPS
Most dwelling fire deaths happen at night while people are asleep.

Smoke detectors are available at a reasonable cost.

They can warn your family of fire and provide you with the extra time you need to escape the dangers involved in a house fire.
There are two primary types of smoke detectors.

- **Ionization** – detects a fire’s visible and invisible smoke particles.

- **Photoelectric** – also detects smoke particles, but only those large enough to be seen by the unit.

Either type of smoke detector can provide your family with an early warning of fire.
Be sure the detector is labeled by a nationally recognized fire testing laboratory.

- Underwriters Laboratories/UL
- Factory Mutual/FM

Smoke detectors can operate on the dwelling’s electrical system, batteries, or both.

Standards suggest installing smoke detectors outside of bedrooms, inside bedrooms, on each level of a living unit, and in basements.
Mount detectors on the ceiling or wall between 6-12” below the ceiling.

UNDER NO CONDITIONS SHOULD SMOKE DETECTORS BE MOUNTED WITHIN 6” OF WHERE THE WALL AND THE CEILING MEET ON EITHER SURFACE.
MAINTENANCE

- Test your smoke alarms once a month.

- Replace your batteries in your smoke alarm twice a year.

- Hint: schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clocks for daylight savings time.

- Never “borrow” a battery from a smoke alarm.

- Don’t disable smoke alarms even temporarily.

- Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm can keep them working properly.
Smoke alarms don’t last forever. Replace yours once every 10 years.

Consider installing smoke alarms with “long-life” (10-year) batteries.

Plan regular fire drills to ensure that everyone knows exactly what to do when the smoke alarm sounds.

If you are building a new home or remodeling your existing home, consider installing an automatic home fire sprinkler system.

Sprinklers and smoke alarms together cut your risk of dying in a home fire 82% relative to having neither – a savings of thousands of lives a year.