



Smoke Detectors



A Key Part to a Home Escape Plan



- Make sure to have smoke detectors installed on every level of your home, in each bedroom, and outside of each sleeping area.
- Installing interconnected alarms is the best choice because when one goes off, all the others do as well.
- Always make sure everyone can hear the smoke detectors. If hearing them is an issue, invest in visual indicators such as strobes.
- Always change batteries twice a year or invest in 10-year lithium batteries which coincide with the life of the smoke detectors. Replace all smoke detectors when they are 10 years old.
- Mount smoke detectors high on walls or ceilings (smoke rises).
- Don't install smoke detectors near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Ionization smoke detectors are generally more responsive to flaming fires.
- Photoelectric smoke detectors are generally more responsive to smoldering fires.
- For best protection, both types of detectors or combination ionization-photoelectric detectors, also known as dual sensor smoke detectors are recommended.
- Test your smoke detectors at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the detector is working.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special detectors. These detectors have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.