

Maintaining your alarms

Always save and follow the alarm manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.

Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

Smoke alarms with non-replaceable batteries are designed to work for 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire alarm.

For smoke alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm "chirps," replace the battery right away.

- ▶ Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not respond properly when tested.
- ▶ Immediately replace any smoke alarm that does not respond properly when tested.
- ▶ Replace combination sensor smoke/ carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.

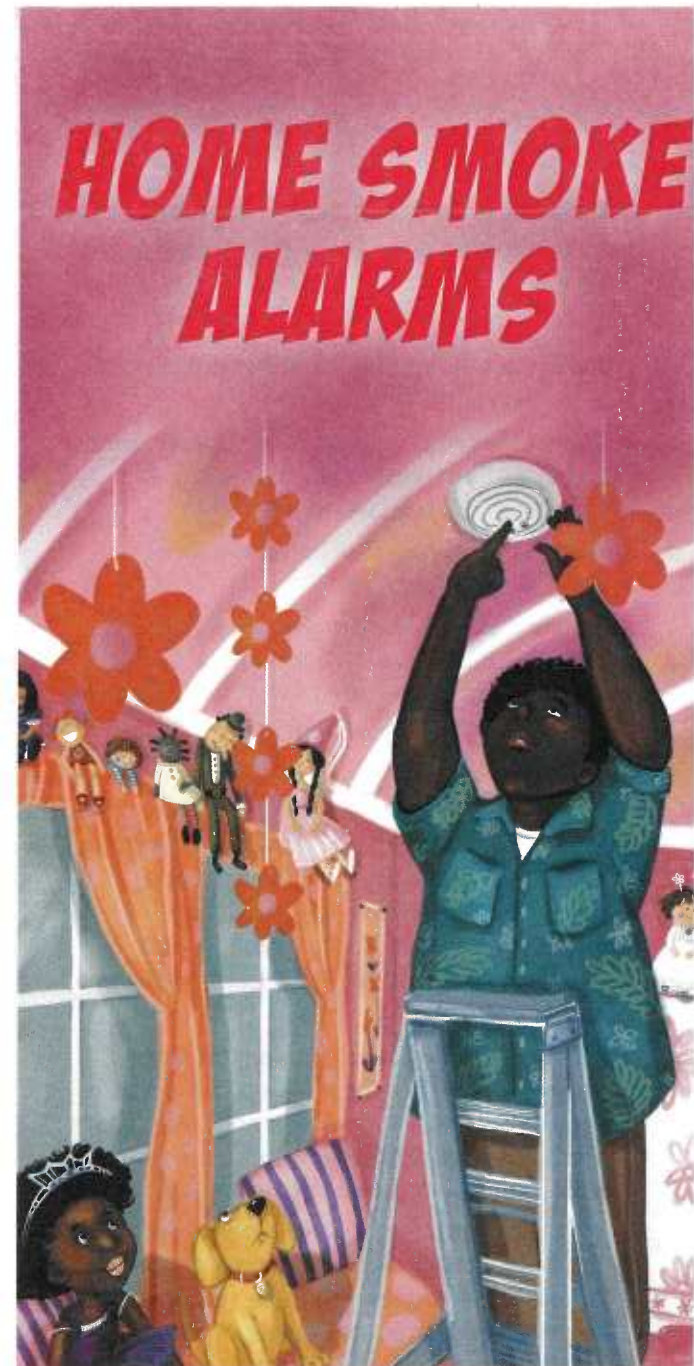
for more... www.nfpa.org/safetytips

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

For videos, fact sheets, and more, go to nfpa.org/safetytips



©2014 National Fire Protection Association
One Batterymarch Park • Quincy, MA 02169-7471
Printed in U.S.A. ♻ Recycled Paper Item #BR4AB



For videos, fact sheets, and more, go to nfpa.org/safetytips

ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Smoke alarms save lives. Three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no smoke alarms that work. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast — smoke alarms give you time to get out.

Choosing your alarms

- ▶ Make sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- ▶ Alarms that run on household current (even if they include battery backup) require installation by a qualified electrician.
- ▶ Alarms that run on just batteries can be installed by anyone.
- ▶ Smoke alarms and alert devices, called accessories, are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Go to www.nfpa.org/safetytips for more information.

Nuisance alarms

- ▶ Smoke alarms should be installed at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance. Use a photoelectric alarm or ionization alarm with a hush button if the alarm is to be placed between 10 and 20 feet of a cooking appliance.
- ▶ If cooking fumes set off nuisance alarms, either replace the alarm with one that has a "hush" button, which will temporarily reduce the alarm's sensitivity for a short period of time, or install a photoelectric type of alarm.
- ▶ An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. Both types of detection alarms or a combination photoelectric/ionization alarms, also known as dual-sensor alarms, should be installed in the home.



You need a smoke alarm on each level of your home.

Installing your alarms

- ▶ Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound and understands the warning of a smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- ▶ Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.
- ▶ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home (including the basement).
- ▶ For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- ▶ Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Alarm installation and placement

Some states and jurisdictions allow smoke alarms to be installed on ceilings only.

NFPA Fast Facts

- In half of the fires in which smoke alarms did not operate, the batteries had been removed or disconnected.
- Roughly one in four smoke alarm failures is due to dead batteries.