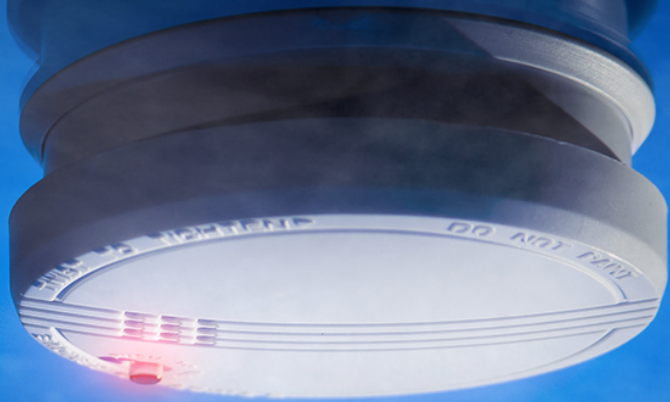


SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES



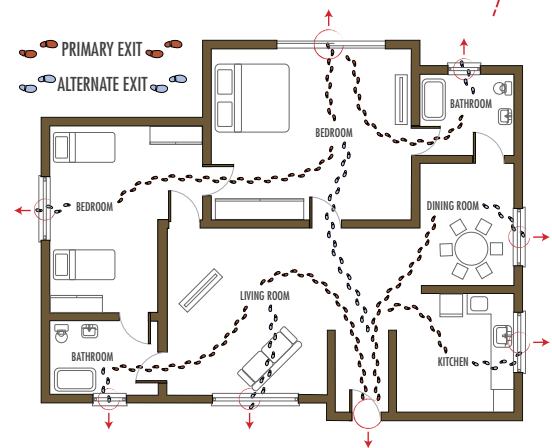
Approximately two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Since most fatal fires occur at night, it's essential that every home has working smoke alarms to provide an early warning. The risk of dying in a home structure fire is 55 percent lower in homes with working smoke alarms than those with no or faulty alarms."

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Smoke alarms should be mounted on the ceiling 4" from the wall; wall mounts should be 4-12" from the ceiling. Do not install near draft areas (windows, vents).
- Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home. Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- Vacuum your alarm at least once a year. Dust and cobwebs can impair sensitivity. Never paint over a smoke alarm.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10-years old.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.

Remember, every day a smoke alarm saves somebody's life!

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF THE SMOKE ALARM GOES OFF?

Crawl low to the ground under the smoke and exit your home quickly. Don't try to take anything with you; just get out. Once safely outside, go to your family meeting place to ensure that everyone got out safely. Once you're out, stay out!



Make sure to prepare and practice an escape plan including a family meeting place. Just like schools practice fire drills, families should also practice what to do if their smoke alarms go off.

DID YOU KNOW...

Working smoke alarms increase the chance of surviving a home fire by 50 PERCENT.



INDOOR FIRE SAFETY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

WWW.FIRE.CA.GOV/PROGRAMS/COMMUNICATIONS/
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