



Smoke Alarms

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES. 65% of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms at all or no smoke alarms that work. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.



Safety Tips

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound
- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) should be installed in homes.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use ten year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are ten years old or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.
- If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a "hush" button. A "hush" button will reduce the alarm's sensitivity for a short period of time.
- An ionization alarm with a hush button or photoelectric alarm should be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance.
- Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement, in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.
- Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These alarms use strobe lights. Vibration equipment can be added to these alarms.
- Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.



— Your Source for SAFETY Information —

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Escape Planning

Plan Ahead. If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- **Draw** a home escape plan and discuss it with everyone in your household.
- **Practice** the plan night and day with everyone in your home twice a year.
- **Know** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- **Have** a meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- **Push** the smoke alarm button to start the practice drill.
- **Get** out fast.
- **Practice** using different ways out.
- **Teach** children to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- **Close** doors behind you as you leave.
- **Go** to your outside meeting place. Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- **Use** your second way out in the case of an actual fire if smoke is blocking your door or the first way out.
- **Get low and go** under the smoke to get out safely if you have to escape through smoke.
- **Feel** the knob and door before opening a door. If they are hot, use your second way out.
- **Consider** getting escape ladders listed by a recognized testing laboratory for escaping from second and third floor windows if all other exits are blocked.
- **Make** sure the ladder fits the window.
- **To avoid** injury, only use the ladder in a real emergency.




— Your Source for SAFETY Information —

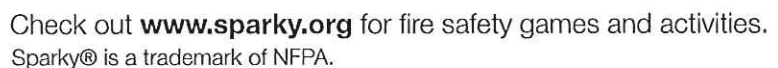
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Use the space below to create your home fire escape plan.

This image shows a full page of blank graph paper. The grid consists of small, equal-sized squares formed by thin black lines. There are 20 columns and 20 rows of squares, creating a total of 400 square units. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the entire area of the page, leaving no margins or additional markings.

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Mark two ways out of each room.
- Mark all of the smoke alarms with . Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Pick a family meeting place outside where everyone can meet.
- Remember, practice your plan at least twice a year!



Grown-ups: Children don't always awake when the smoke alarm sounds. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs. Get more information on smoke alarms and escape planning at www.nfpa.org/factsheets.