

FIRE PREVENTION & PROTECTION

Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue svfr.org • "Protection with Pride"

Office of State Fire Marshal

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Chart



Why should my home have smoke alarms?

- Seconds count! You have less than three minutes to escape a house fire.
- The earlier a smoke alarm alerts you, the more likely you will get out alive.
- Most fire deaths are caused by smoke – not flames.
- Most fire deaths and injuries occur between midnight and 8 a.m. when people are asleep.

What is the difference between smoke alarms and smoke detectors?

- Smoke alarms are self-contained, single or multiple-station smoke-sensing devices.
- Smoke detectors are smoke-sensing devices that are not self-contained and operate as part of a central control system.

What is the difference between ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms?

- Ionization smoke alarms are quicker at sensing flaming, fast moving fires.
- Photoelectric smoke alarms are quicker at sensing smoldering fires.

What are the requirements for installing smoke alarms?

- Meet the applicable requirements of the State building Code at the time of construction.
- All smoke alarms are to be installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Outside sleeping areas.
- On each level of the home.
- The Office of State Fire Marshal recommends adding smoke alarms to each bedroom for increased protection.

Are smoke alarms required to be installed in all bedrooms?

- If required by State Building Code at the time of construction or remodel. *Note:* Some local ordinances have additional requirements. Check with your local building department and/or housing agency.
- The Office of State Fire Marshal recommends installing smoke alarms in all bedrooms for increased protection.

Can 110 volt (hard-wired) smoke alarms be replaced with solely battery operated smoke alarms?

- **No.** All hard-wired smoke alarms must be replaced with compliant hard-wired smoke alarms with battery back-up.

How often do I replace my smoke alarm?

- Unless otherwise recommended by the manufacturer's published instructions, single and multiple station smoke alarms installed in one- and two-family dwellings shall be replaced when they fail to respond to operability test, but shall not remain in service longer than 10 years from the date of manufacture.
- Combination Carbon Monoxide/Smoke Alarm are recommended to be replaced 5 years from date of manufacture.

How do I keep my smoke alarm working?

- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Clean smoke alarms monthly with compressed canned air or vacuum smoke alarms regularly to remove dust and cobwebs.
- Never disconnect or remove smoke alarm batteries for other uses.
- Determine alarm type. Replace alarm or battery based on the alarm type and "How often do I replace my smoke alarm?" section.

What types of Smoke Alarms are available and how are they identified?

- Ionization smoke alarms: Contains material that ionizes the air. These ions form an electrical path between positive and negative terminals provided by the battery. When smoke enters the alarm, it disrupts the electrical current flow and triggers the alarm.
 - All ionization smoke alarms sold in Oregon are required to have a hush feature.
 - Solely battery powered alarms are required to have a long life battery designed to last ten years.
- Photoelectric smoke alarms: Contain a light source and photocell, activated by light. When smoke enters the alarm chamber, light from the bulb reflects off the smoke particles and is directed towards the photocell. The photocell then triggers the alarm. Photoelectric smoke alarms are exempt from the ten-year battery and hush feature requirements. Replace the battery at least once per year or when the alarm "Chirps" indicating a low battery.
- Hard-wired smoke alarms with battery back-up (available in photo., ion., or dual): These alarms are wired directly into the homes electrical system. They do not require a ten-year battery. Replace the 9 volt back-up battery at least once per year or when the alarm "Chirps" indicating a low battery.
- Hard-wired smoke alarms without battery back-up (available in photo., ion., or dual): These alarms are wired directly into the home's electrical system. If the electrical power to the home fails, the alarms will not function.
- Combination or dual sensor smoke alarms: Both ionization and photoelectric technology in one alarm to sense flaming and smoldering fires.
- Visual (strobe light) and Tactile (shaker): For people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Replace the 9 volt or double AA batteries at least once per year or when the alarm "Chirps" indicating a low battery.

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

- » MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » PRACTICE using different ways out.
- » TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

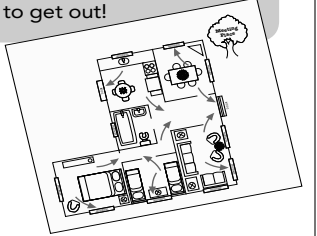
IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- » If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- » CALL the fire department from outside your home.

NFPA Your Source for SAFETY Information www.nfpa.org/education
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

FACTS

- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **45%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Fire Prevention Week

House of Hazards

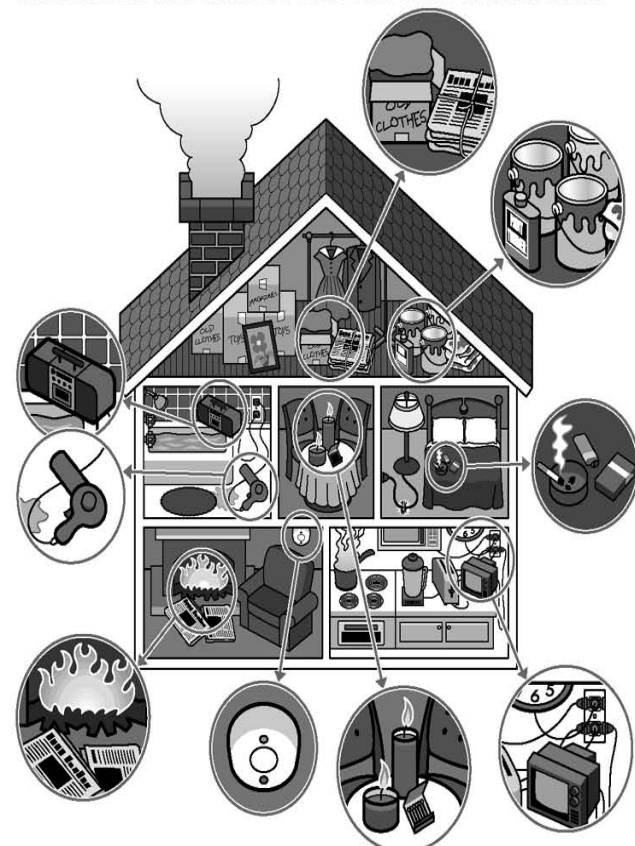
During Fire Prevention Week, take time to inspect your home for common household fire hazards like the ones shown here.

Keep electrical appliances safely away from sources of water.

Use a screen to contain fireplace sparks and keep all flammable materials a safe distance away.

Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries twice a year.

Never leave burning candles unattended by an adult.



Get rid of stored newspapers and other trash which could start or spread a fire more quickly.

Never store highly flammable liquids, like paint thinner or gasoline, inside your home.

Never smoke in bed. Matches and lighters should be stored safely out of children's reach.

Don't overload electrical outlets.

POP QUIZ: Can you find two more fire hazards in this house?

1. Look in the bedroom. Loose or frayed cords on lamps and any other electrical devices should be repaired or replaced.
2. Look in the kitchen. Cooking food should never be left unattended on the stovetop or in the oven.

