

# SMOKE ALARMS

## USE IN THE HOME

### Facts

- Smoke alarms provide early notification to the presence of smoke or fire.
- Almost daily, a smoke alarm saves a life.
- A smoke alarm significantly increases the likelihood that you will escape a deadly fire.

### Smoke Alarm Types

Several types of alarms are available. Some are battery powered and some use household electrical current. All will offer protection, provided they are installed and maintained properly. Smoke alarms are readily available at hardware stores.

### Smoke Alarm Maintenance

- **INSTALL** smoke alarms near each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Read and follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions.
- **TEST** your smoke alarm each month. This ensures it is working and familiarizes your family to the alarm sound.
- **MAINTAIN** your smoke alarms by changing batteries annually. One suggestion is to change smoke alarm batteries in the fall at daylight savings time. If a smoke alarm is "chirping", the battery needs to be replaced. Clean your smoke alarm using a vacuum and/or dust brush without removing the alarm's cover.
- **REPLACE** any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.

### Fire Emergencies

Knowing what to do in the event of fire may be the most important protection you can provide. A home fire protection plan should include installing and maintaining smoke alarms and making and practicing a home escape plan.

- Make sure everyone knows the sound of the smoke alarms in your home.
- Plan and practice a home fire escape plan with your family.
- Know at least two ways out of each room and plan a meeting place outside.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, go directly outside to the meeting place and call the fire department from a neighbor's house.
- Never go back inside a burning building.

**References:** Underwriters Laboratory [www.ul.com/fallsafety/smoke\\_alarms.html](http://www.ul.com/fallsafety/smoke_alarms.html); National Fire Protection Association [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org); United States Fire Administration [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

**PREVENT FIRES**  
**IT'S YOUR JOB!**