



# SMOKE ALARM SAFETY



## IMPORTANCE OF SMOKE ALARMS



If there is a fire, there will be smoke. Smoke alarms let you know there is a fire in your home; they are an early warning signal that helps you escape more quickly. On average, it takes about 2 minutes for a fire to become life-threatening and 5 minutes for a home to be engulfed in flames. Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep. Smoke alarms help save lives.

## INSTALLATION & PLACEMENT



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove. It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.

## TESTING & REPLACEMENT



Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button. If your smoke alarm uses standard batteries, be sure to replace them once a year. Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.

## FOR THOSE WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING



Specialized smoke alarms and alert devices are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Strobe lights flash when the smoke alarm sounds. Pillow and bed shakers as well as alert devices that use a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound are also available to assist in waking up individuals if a smoke alarm sounds.

## IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A SMOKE ALARM



If you do not have a smoke alarm in your home, call the DFRS 24-hour Smoke Alarm Hotline at 301-600-7275 (Smoke Alarms Save Lives). Leave your name, address, and phone number, and you should receive confirmation of your request within 72 hours.



# SMOKE ALARM RESOURCES

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information on ways to stay safe this winter, please visit

<https://linktr.ee/fcdfrscommunityoutreach>

Or scan the QR Code.

