



Smoke Alarm Information Guide

Residential Fire Statistics:

- Nationwide there is a civilian fire injury every 23 minutes and a civilian fire death every 130 minutes.
- 82 percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Children age 5 and under are twice as likely to die in a fire as the rest of the population.
- Since smoke alarms were introduced, fire deaths have been cut in half. Working smoke alarms greatly reduce the likelihood of a residential, fire-related fatality by providing occupants with early warning and giving them additional time to escape.
- Nearly one-third of residential fires and two-fifths of residential fire fatalities occur in homes with no smoke alarms.
- An estimated 20 percent of U.S. homes have smoke alarms that do not work. In nearly all 20 percent, the reason is dead or missing batteries.

Information gathered from the U.S. Fire Administration.

Smoke Alarm Maintenance:

Your smoke alarm system will require some maintenance to keep it operating properly. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for specific information concerning your alarm units.

- Test your smoke alarms once a month.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year or as soon as the alarm "chirps."
- Never disable smoke alarms even temporarily.
- Vacuuming smoke alarms regularly can help keep them working properly. Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced at a minimum, once every ten years.

If you need any assistance in changing the batteries or would like us to test your smoke alarms, please call the Fry Fire District at 378-2222 to schedule an appointment.

Five Most Common Installation Mistakes:

- Smoke alarms must not be installed closer than four inches to the adjacent wall or ceiling.
- If smoke alarms are installed on a wall, they must not be further than 12" from the ceiling but not closer than 4" to the ceiling.
- Smoke alarms should not be installed within 3' of a ceiling fan or air vent.
- Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom and outside each separate sleeping area. In addition, smoke alarms

should be installed on every level to include the basement.

- Please contact the Fry Fire District if you have any questions regarding smoke alarms.

Home Fire Safety:

- Smoke alarms will only assist you in the early detection of a fire. You and your family must know what to do if a fire strikes your home.
- Make an escape plan.
- Designate a meeting place outside of your home.
- Conduct fire drills to ensure everyone knows what to do if a fire occurs.

Smoke alarms are a great success story. Cutting home fire deaths in half in only a quarter of a century. They must be properly maintained if they're going to work when needed.

Recent studies have shown home fire sprinkler systems to be extremely effective in controlling fires and saving lives. The Fry Fire District believes that the future of home fire safety lies in the combination of smoke alarms and sprinkler systems which will continue to cut fire deaths and save lives.