

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ESCAPING A FIRE

- If you live in an apartment, use the stairs to evacuate. Never use an elevator during a fire.
- Teach children how to operate window latches and door locks.
- Make a plan to assist family members with special needs.
- If you become trapped, close the door between you and the fire. Signal out the window to alert others.



SAFETY TIPS

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths.

- Do not leave cooking, candles or space heaters unattended.
- Slide a lid on cooking fires to extinguish. Never attempt to carry a burning pan.



- Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Purchase and use ashtrays that have the center support feature and never smoke in bed.



Working
**SMOKE ALARMS
SAVE LIVES**

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

"Dedicated To Life Safety"

BE SAFE...REPLACE!

Smoke alarms monitor the air 24 hours a day, every day. After 10 years, it's been on the job for over 87,000 hours. For best protection, replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.

Failure predictions:

First year: 2-3%

Second to 10th year: 16-30%

More than 10 years old: 30-50%

Do you remember when you installed your smoke alarms or how old they were when you moved in?



If you are not sure... **Be Safe & Replace!**

For more information contact

Santa Clara County Fire Department

408.378.4010 or 1.800.800.1793

www.sccfd.org



A California Fire Protection District serving Santa Clara County and the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill and Saratoga

Each Year in the United States Over 3,000 People are Killed in Home Fires

Smoke Alarms



Can Save Your Life!

Working Smoke Alarms Increase Your Chance of Surviving a Fire by 50%

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

- The majority of home fire fatalities occur between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep.



- Three out of four home fire deaths occur in homes with missing or non-working smoke alarms.
- Children under five and adults over 65 have a fire death rate that is double the national average.



PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

Install and maintain working smoke alarms in your home.

Develop and practice a home fire escape plan that includes the following:

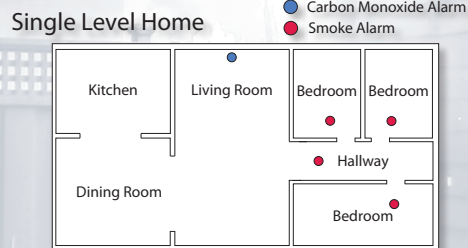
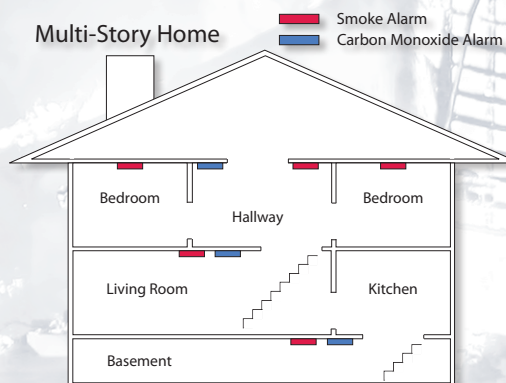
- Two exits out of every room with an escape ladder for multi-story homes.
- Crawling low under the smoke to exit.
- A designated meeting place (tree, mailbox, etc.) where family members will gather after evacuating.



This training fire demonstrates how smoke rises. In case of fire, crawl low under smoke to exit.

HOW MANY AND WHERE?

- Install smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, such as the hallway, and on every level of your home.
- For added protection, install smoke alarms in each living area of your home. Avoid placing smoke alarms in or near the kitchen and bathrooms.



For more information about carbon monoxide alarms, please visit: www.nfpa.org

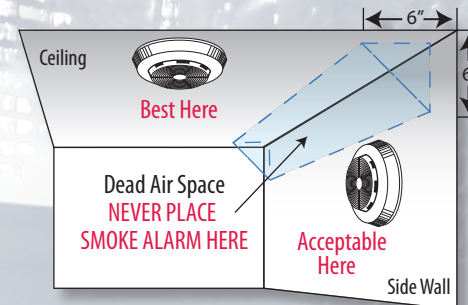
MAINTENANCE

- Test smoke alarms each month. For hard to reach units, use a broom handle or stick to press the test button.
- Replace batteries once a year. Use daylight savings time as your reminder. "Change your clocks... change your batteries."
- If the low-battery signal begins to chirp, replace battery immediately.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.



INSTALLATION

- Mount smoke alarms near the center of the ceiling.
- For wall-mounted units, place them at least 3' from a corner and 6" from the ceiling.
- Do not install smoke alarms near heating or cooling ducts.
- Interconnected smoke alarms provide the best level of protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Interconnected alarms are available as hard-wired or battery-powered units.



NUISANCE ALARMS

If your smoke alarm unit regularly responds to cooking smoke or shower steam, consider the following:

- Replace the unit with one that has the silence button feature.
- Move the unit further away to give cooking smoke or shower steam a chance to dissipate before reaching the unit.
- If ceiling mounted, move unit to a wall.
- If the unit is the ionization type, replace it with a photoelectric detector. This type of alarm is less sensitive to smaller particles and thus less affected by cooking smoke or small amounts of steam. Packaging and/or owner's manual will indicate type of alarm.

