



# Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

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## Install. Inspect. Protect.

- More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year in the United States; most of whom are in homes without a working smoke alarm. A working, properly installed smoke alarm lowers your chances of dying in a fire.
- 184 people died in fires in Ohio in 2008. Working smoke detectors were found in only 19% of the homes in which a fatal fire occurred.
- The Division of State Fire Marshal and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) are promoting the **Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign**, which emphasizes that **"Smoke Alarms Save Lives."**
- The mission of this campaign is to encourage Americans to practice fire safety by **1)** installing and maintaining smoke alarms, which can help save the lives of residents and firefighters, **2)** practicing fire escape plans, and **3)** performing a home safety walk-through to remove fire hazards from the home.
- According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2003-2006, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- During the same time period, no smoke alarms were present in 40 percent of the home fire deaths and in 23 percent of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.
- The USFA believes that all homes should be equipped with smoke alarms and automatic fire sprinklers, and families should prepare and practice emergency escape plans.
- When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are present in a home, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82 percent, when compared to a residence without either.



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## A few residential smoke alarm tips include:

- Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.
- Get smoke alarms that can sound fast. The U.S. Fire Administration recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- Testing smoke alarms monthly and changing alkaline batteries at least once every year, or as instructed. You can use a date you already know, like your birthday or when you change your clocks as a reminder.
- Consider buying a long-life (lithium) battery-powered smoke alarm, which may last up to ten years with no battery change. If a smoke alarm sounds during normal cooking or when bathing, press the hush button if the smoke alarm has one. Open the door or window or fan the area with a towel to get the air moving.
- Do not disable the smoke alarm or take out the batteries. If this happens often, the smoke alarm will need to be relocated.



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United States Fire Administration  
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