



# Smoke Alarms (Detectors) Can Save Your Life

A publication of the U.S. Consumer  
Product Safety Commission



- » **Buy them!**
- » **Use them!**
- » **Take care of them!**

## Your life may depend on it!



Report a product hazard or a product-related injury at [www.SaferProducts.gov](http://www.SaferProducts.gov), or call CPSC's toll-free hotline at (800) 638-2772. A teletypewriter for the deaf is available at (301) 595-7054.

## To Prevent Nuisance Alarms:

- » Clean alarms following the manufacturer's instructions.
- » Install alarms at least 10–15 feet from the kitchen range.
- » Use photoelectric alarms near or in the kitchen. They are less sensitive to cooking activity.
- » Choose an alarm that has a silencing feature so that nuisance alarms can be stopped quickly and easily.
- » Install alarms away from bathrooms.

## Know How to Escape:

- » Plan your escape route, and practice leaving your home during the day and night.
- » Assist those who need help.
- » Adjust your escape plan, if necessary.
- » Select one place outside where family members should meet.
- » **NEVER** re-enter the home once outside.

# Only Working Smoke Alarms Can Warn You in Time!

## What Types of Smoke Alarms to Install?

Homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home. Follow these guidelines to protect your family:

» IF YOU DON'T HAVE SMOKE ALARMS IN YOUR HOME, GET THEM AND INSTALL THEM.

» Install both ionization- and photoelectric-type smoke alarms because ionization and photoelectric alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires.

*Ionization detectors respond quickly to flaming fires; photoelectric detectors respond quicker to smoldering fires. There are combination smoke alarms that use both technologies.*

» Install interconnected smoke alarms because when one sounds, they all sound throughout the home.

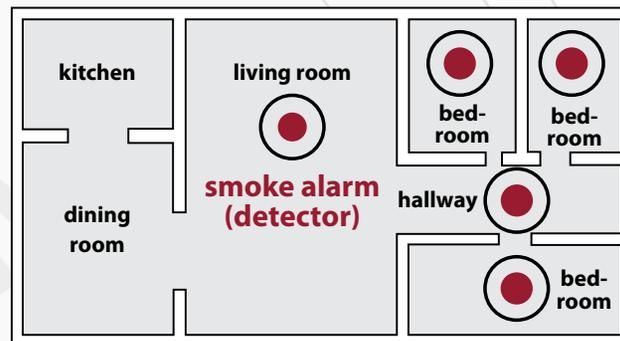
*Interconnected smoke alarms are typically connected using a wire, but newer wireless technology is*

*available that allows smoke alarms to be interconnected without using wires.*

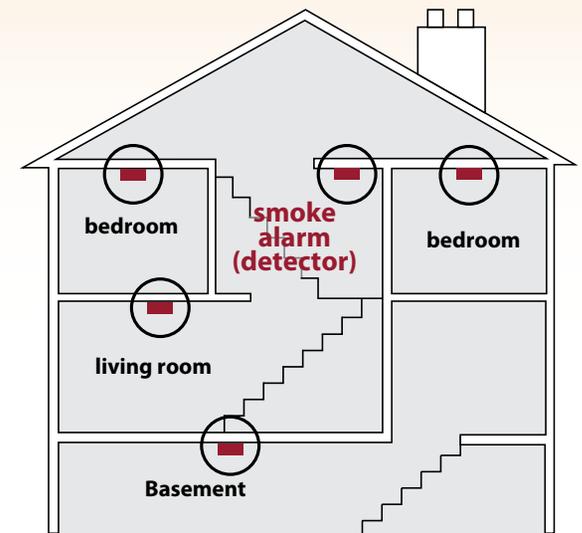
» Smoke alarms powered by house wiring should have battery back-up because during a power outage, smoke alarms with batteries will still provide protection.

## Where to Install Smoke Alarms:

- » in each bedroom,
- » on each level in the home, and
- » outside sleeping areas.



**SINGLE LEVEL**



**MULTISTORY**

## Take Care of Them:

- » Test each alarm monthly by pushing the test button.
- » Replace batteries once a year, *or sooner*, when they make a "chirping" sound.
- » Replace alarms every 10 years, or follow the manufacturer's replacement instructions.

