

4 Maintaining a Smoke Alarm

Only a working smoke alarm can alert you to a fire. Keep yours operating!

- **Test** your smoke alarm monthly by pressing the test button. The alarm should sound immediately.
- **Replace** the **battery** in each alarm once a year.
- **Test** your smoke alarms **monthly** and change batteries **annually** or when the detector is **chirping**, indicating that the battery is low.
- Clean smoke alarm twice a year to prevent dust from clogging the system. This can be done by using a vacuum or a damp cloth. Test each unit when finished.
- **Replace** your smoke alarm every 10 years.
- **Never remove batteries** from a smoke alarm for any reason.



Practice your plan regularly, at least twice a year.

- While you practice your plan, have everyone practice these two survival techniques:
 - ✓ Crawl Low Under Smoke
 - ✓ If your escape route is blocked by smoke, get down on your hands and knees and crawl low under the smoke to the nearest exit.
- Smoke and poisonous gases rise, so cleaner air can be found near the floor.
- Stop, Drop and Roll
- If your clothes catch on fire never run.
- Stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face, and roll over and over, smothering the flames.

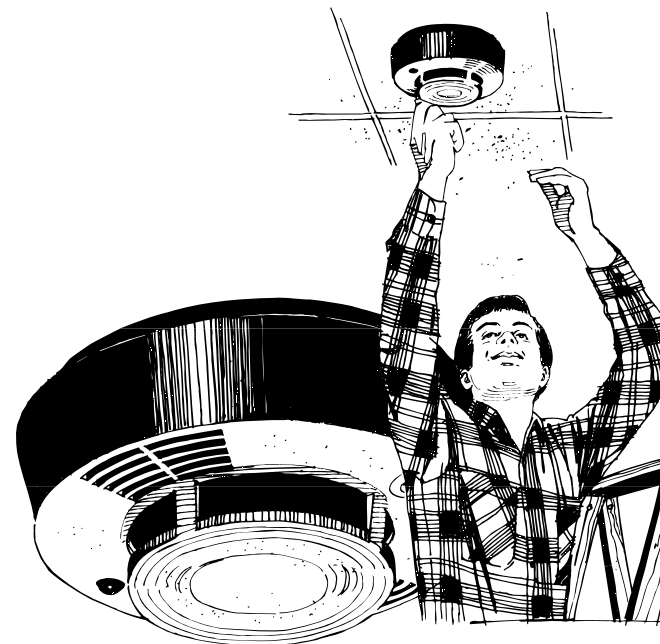


In an emergency, call 9-1-1,



**For more information
contact Community Relations
at 975-2574**

Fire Alarms



5 When the Alarm Sounds

Knowing what to do when fire strikes will help you and your family to escape safely.

Prepare a Plan

- Draw a floor plan of your home that shows you and your family how to escape from a fire in your home.
- Find two ways out of each room, especially the bedrooms.
- Have a pre-arranged meeting place outside your home so that you'll know that everyone has escaped safely.
- Call 9-1-1 from a neighbour's house.



1 What You Need to Know

- Most fatal fires happen at night when people are sleeping.
- The smell of smoke **will not** wake a sleeping person.
- The poisonous gases will actually put you into an even deeper sleep.
- Smoke alarms are inexpensive and are extremely effective in alerting you to fire.
- Smoke detectors save lives by giving people time to escape the fire.
- **Test** your smoke alarms **monthly** and change batteries **annually** or when the detector is **chirping**, indicating that the battery is low.



2 Purchasing a Smoke Alarm

- Smoke detectors can be purchased in hardware and department stores.
- **Always** be sure that your alarm has the *Underwriters' Laboratories' Canada* (ULC) label.



Choosing A Smoke Alarm

There are many different types of smoke alarms to choose from. Batteries power some smoke alarms while others can be electrically connected.

Battery Powered Smoke Alarms

- Battery-powered smoke alarms are easy to install when following manufacturer's instructions.

Electrically Powered Smoke Alarms

- These alarms are hard-wired into your home's existing electrical system. Installation of Electronic Smoke Alarms need to be installed by a qualified electrician.
- When purchasing an electric smoke alarm, ensure that it has a battery back up. This will ensure that the alarm will continue working in the event of a power failure.

No matter which type of smoke alarm you choose, follow the manufacturer's instructions on installation, testing and maintenance.

3 Installing a Smoke Alarm

Where to Locate Smoke Alarms

- Safety standards state that each home **must** have **one** working smoke alarm located outside sleeping areas. If the home has more than one sleeping area, additional alarms need to be installed.
- Ensure that the alarm can be heard when the bedroom doors are closed.
- For extra protection, additional alarms can be placed in the dining, furnace and utility rooms as well as in hallways.
- **Avoid installing smoke alarms near the bathroom, a heating appliance, window, ceiling fan, kitchen or garage. The fumes, steam or exhaust could set off a false alarm.**



How to install Smoke Alarms

- **Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing your smoke alarm.**
- Because smoke rises, mount alarms high on a wall or on the ceiling.
- Wall-mounted units should be located 8 to 24 cm from the ceiling.
- Ceiling-mounted units should be at least 8 cm from the wall.
- In rooms with a pitched ceiling, mount the detector on or near the ceiling's highest point.

