

# ARE YOU ALARMED?

## You Should Be! Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

### Types of Smoke Alarms Available

There are many types of smoke alarms available to protect your loved ones and your home.

- **Ionization Smoke Alarms** detect flaming fires.
- **Photoelectric Smoke Alarms** detect smoldering fires.
- **Dual Sensor (Ionization and Photoelectric) Smoke Alarms** detect both flaming and smoldering fires.
- **Hard-Wired Smoke Alarms** are powered by the electricity in your home.
- **Long Life Batteries** - Some alarms have a 10-year lithium battery. These units are usually sealed and should be replaced according to manufacturer's instructions.

**A working smoke alarm is the most important item in your home.** They protect your life, the lives of your loved ones, the lives of firefighters and reduce the damage to your home if a fire should occur. Having **working smoke alarms** in your home increases your chance to escape from a fire.

**Aren't your lives worth a few minutes and a trip to the store?**

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, half of the fire fatalities in residential buildings occur between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. We recommend that you install alarms on each floor of your home to alert you regardless of where you are and what time of day it is. Together with a home escape plan, you will be able to make sure that your family is safely accounted for when firefighters arrive. If you realize that not everyone is at your special designated meeting place, **STAY OUTSIDE, wait until firefighters arrive and tell them who is missing and where you think they are.**

**A non-working smoke alarm is just as bad as having no alarm! The alarm has to sound in order to keep you safe.** Proper maintenance of your smoke alarms ensures that they will work when you need them to. Test your smoke alarms monthly and replace the batteries at least twice a year. If your alarm is hard-wired into your home and does not work - replace it. Set reminders for yourself to check your alarms monthly and replace the batteries when you change your clock. **DO NOT disable smoke alarms for any reason**, especially when cooking; fan the alarm with a towel or open a window to ventilate.



### Need a Smoke Alarm? We Can Help

If you live in Prince George's County and do not have smoke alarms in your home, you can request one **FREE OF CHARGE** by visiting your local fire station or by calling 301-864-SAFE (7233). Firefighters will bring the equipment and install it in your home.

Help your neighbors and loved ones stay safe by sharing this information with them. If they are unable to install or check their alarm we can help!



**Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department**  
*Part of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department*

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