



Working smoke alarms are our best defense against fires. Although the majority of fatal fires happen at night, smoke alarms give you time to escape. In fact, it can make a difference between life and death.

CHOOSING YOUR SMOKE ALARM

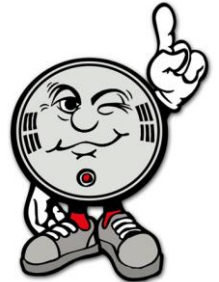
- Make sure the smoke alarms you buy bear the label of an independent testing lab. Some alarms run on a household current, with a battery backup, and may require professional installation. Others work with batteries, which you can install yourself.

TYPES OF SMOKE ALARMS

- Some alarms are powered by a 10-year lithium power cell, which is ideal for anyone who would have difficulty changing batteries. Others use an “ionization” type smoke-sensing system, or “photoelectric” sensors. Both types offer adequate protection if properly installed and maintained.
- Some alarms have “hush” buttons that can be briefly deactivated if cooking fumes or steam set them off. These models will re-activate automatically after eight to ten minutes. For people with hearing impairments, some alarms are extra loud and have a flash a strobe-like light.

PLACING YOUR SMOKE ALARM

- Smoke alarms should be installed on every floor of your home, near or inside all sleeping areas. On floors without bedrooms, install the alarms near the stairway leading to the floor above. Smoke alarms should also be installed in dens, living rooms, family rooms, and other living areas.
- Do not install smoke alarms in kitchens, bathrooms, garages, near windows, outside doors or in conditions that might set off “nuisance alarms”.
- Smoke rises. Smoke alarms should be mounted high on a wall or on the ceiling. In open stairways (with no doors at the top or bottom) mount alarms anywhere along the path that smoke would travel up the stairs.



INSTALLING YOUR SMOKE ALARM

- Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions. If you cannot install the alarm yourself, get assistance from your nearest fire department. Qualified electricians should install the smoke alarm if they are hard-wired into your house wiring.

MAINTAINING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

- Test your smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries at least twice a year: *Change Your Clock – Change Your Battery*. When the alarm makes a chirping sound, it is telling you that the battery needs changing.
- Smoke alarms do not last forever. If the alarm is older than ten years old, it should be replaced.
- Never paint a smoke alarm.

If you have any questions, need additional information, or would like assistance with your smoke alarm, please contact the Whispering Pines Fire Rescue Department at 949-2400 or email rmlambdin@wpfirerescue.com.

SMOKE ALARMS