

Smoke Alarms Save Lives!



Every year in America, almost 3000 people die in home fires.

Most of these people die in homes that do not have working smoke alarms in them.

Smoke alarms warn you and your family when there is a fire. They can save your lives.



DO YOU HAVE WORKING SMOKE ALARMS IN YOUR HOME?

Keys to Safety in this lesson:

- Why is smoke dangerous?
- How smoke alarms can help save your life
- How to install, maintain, and test home smoke alarms

Activities in this lesson:

- *Test Your Smoke Alarms* Reminder Sheet
- Match the Answer
- Word Scramble
- Fill in the Blanks
- Check What You Know

Words to Review

Here are some words you will see in this lesson. Review the words and their meanings.

Word	Meaning
smoke	a deadly mix of particles and gas that is made by fire.
smoke alarm	something that makes a loud sound to let you know that there is a fire.
hard-wired	a smoke alarm that runs on electricity and only uses a battery for back-up power if the electricity goes out.
warn	to let you know that there is something dangerous nearby, such as a fire.
install	to hang up or put into place.
ceiling	you should install your smoke alarm on the ceiling or near the top of a wall.
test button	the button you push on the smoke alarm to make sure the alarm works.
maintain	to keep in good working condition.
escape	to get out safely.
get low and go	what you should do if you have to go through a room with smoke.
home fire sprinkler	something that sprays water quickly onto a fire to stop flames, heat, and smoke.

What Is Smoke?

Smoke is a deadly mix of particles and gas that is made by fire.

Smoke Is Dangerous

- Smoke is fast. After a smoke alarm goes off, you only have about two minutes to get out of your home safely.
- Smoke makes it hard to breathe. It can make you sick, hurt your lungs, or even kill you.
- Smoke is dark and makes your eyes hurt. It makes it hard to see.
- Smoke is silent. It can sneak up on you, especially if you are sleeping.



Smoke Alarms Keep You Safe

- Smoke alarms can save your life or save the life of someone in your family.
- Smoke alarms warn you that there is a fire before you see, hear, or smell it. They give you extra time to escape.
- Smoke alarms make a loud sound to warn you and your family if there is a fire in your home.
- Smoke alarms wake you up if there is a fire when you are sleeping so you can get out safely.



TIP

Smoke Rises – Get Low and Go!

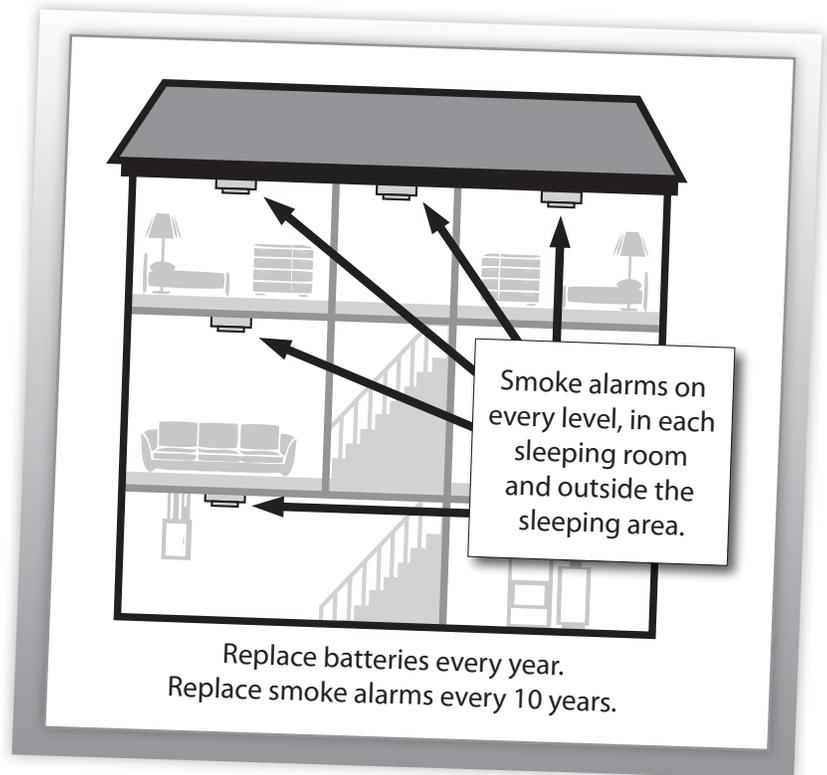
Smoke can kill you. Smoke rises. If there is smoke in the room, you should stay near the floor. Get low and go under the smoke to find your way out.



Have Smoke Alarms

You can buy smoke alarms at hardware stores, home improvement stores, and department stores.

- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Install smoke alarms outside each sleeping area, and inside every bedroom.
- Install smoke alarms on or near the ceiling because smoke rises.
- Do not put smoke alarms near windows, doors, vents, ducts, or corners. The smoke may not get to the alarms.
- Do not put smoke alarms too close to the kitchen or bathroom. Steam or smoke from cooking can set off the alarm even if there is no fire.



TIP

Smoke alarms for people who have trouble hearing.

People who cannot hear need special smoke alarms. These alarms flash a bright light or shake their beds to let them know there is a fire.

Install these special alarms if you or a family member cannot hear well.

Home Fire Sprinklers

- Home fire sprinklers spray water onto a fire to stop flames, heat, and smoke quickly.
- They help reduce damage and injuries caused by smoke and fire.
- If you are moving into a new apartment or home, check for sprinklers.

Lab-tested Alarms

Before you buy a smoke alarm, look for one of these symbols on the package:



The symbol means that the alarm has been tested and should work correctly in your home if you maintain it.

Make Sure Your Smoke Alarms Work!

Test every smoke alarm in your home each month.

- Stand on a sturdy stepladder and push the test button on the alarm until you hear a loud sound.
- If you do not have a stepladder, use the end of a broom or a long pointer to push the test button.
- If the alarm does not make a sound, replace the battery and try again. If it still does not work, get a new alarm.



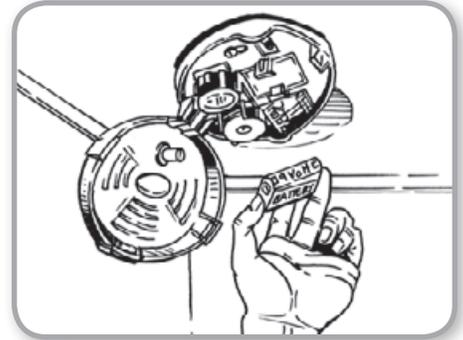
Keep your smoke alarms clean.

- Use a vacuum or a cloth to remove dust from smoke alarms every time you test them.
- Never put anything on your smoke alarms, such as paint, decorations, or tape. If the smoke can't get to the alarm, it will not work.



Change the batteries.

- Change the batteries in your smoke alarms at least one time each year. Pick a special day like a holiday or your birthday. Write "change smoke alarm batteries" on your calendar as a reminder, or use the chart on page 5 as a reminder.
- If your smoke alarm makes a short chirping noise, the battery is losing power. Change the battery.



Replace your smoke alarms every ten years.

- Smoke alarms should last for ten years if you take care of them.

If you hear a smoke alarm...

- 1) Stay calm.
- 2) Get low if there is smoke in the room.
- 3) Get outside and stay outside. Do not go back into the burning building for any reason.
- 4) Call for help AFTER you get out.

Learn more about how to make and practice a plan to get out safely if there is a fire in your home. Ask your teacher or tutor for the *Keys to Safety Escape Plan Lesson* on the Keys to Safety website, www.proliteracy.org/keystosafety

Directions for Two Other Kinds of Alarms

- Some smoke alarms come with batteries that last for up to 10 years and do not need to be changed. After the battery dies, replace the whole alarm. You cannot remove the battery from this type of alarm.
- Hard-wired smoke alarms run on electricity and only use a battery for back-up power if the electricity goes out. You should change the back-up battery one time every year.

Can Alarms Go Off If There Is No Fire?

Smoke from cooking food or steam from the bathroom can set off an alarm when there is no real fire.

How to prevent this kind of alarm:

- Do not install smoke alarms in the path of cooking smoke or bathroom steam.
- Use fans when you cook or take a shower.

If the alarm goes off and you know there is no fire:

- Fan the smoke or steam away from the alarm to stop the sound. You can use a dish towel or newspaper.
- Some alarms have a "hush" button you can push.

Do not take the batteries out of the alarm or do anything to make it stop working.



Cut on the dotted line and hang this sheet on your refrigerator to remind you to test your smoke alarms every month!

Test Your Smoke Alarms!

Every month, test every smoke alarm in your home.

When you finish, check the box for that month.

Year			
January		July	
February		August	
March		September	
April		October	
May		November	
June		December	

Change the Batteries!

Pick a month and day to change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Write the date in the chart below.

When you change your batteries, check the year in the chart.

Date	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015

Match the Answer

Draw lines to match the questions in column 1 to the answers in column 2.

Column 1

1. About how many people die in home fires each year?
2. About how long do you have to get out of your home after a smoke alarm goes off?
3. This makes a noise to warn you that there is a fire in your home.
4. How many years should a smoke alarm last if you take care of it?
5. How often should you test your smoke alarms?
6. What should you do if a smoke alarm goes off?
7. Push the _____ button to see if a smoke alarm is working.
8. Smoke can hurt your _____ if you breathe it in.
9. _____ smoke alarms each time you test them to remove dust.
10. This sprays water on a fire to stop flames, heat, and smoke quickly.

Column 2

- a. home fire sprinkler
- b. lungs
- c. ten
- d. get out
- e. test
- f. two minutes
- g. clean
- h. 3000
- i. smoke alarm
- j. every month

Find the answers on page 7.

Check What You Know Answers: 1.e 2.d 3.e 4.a 5.d

Fill in the Blanks Answers: 1.smoke 2.breathe 3.see 4.kill 5.noise 6.warn 7.wake 8.save 9.level 10.bedroom 11.sleeping 12.month

Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters below to make words about smoke alarms and fire safety.
Write the unscrambled words on the blank lines.

- oesmk _____
- rlama _____
- stet _____
- erspnkilor _____
- rwan _____
- malfe _____
- saitnll _____
- vsae _____
- ainmnita _____
- ifre _____

Find the answers on page 8.

Fill in the Blanks

Instructions: Choose the best words from the list to fill in the blanks below.

wake	warn	smoke	kill	month	sleeping
breathe	noise	save	see	bedroom	level

Fire makes s_____ (1).

Smoke is silent. Smoke is fast. Smoke makes it hard to b_____ (2) and s_____ (3).

Smoke can k_____ (4) you.

Smoke alarms make a loud n_____ (5) to w_____ (6) you if there is a fire.

Smoke alarms will w_____ (7) you up if you are sleeping.

Smoke alarms can s_____ (8) your life.

Have smoke alarms on every l_____ (9) of your home, in every b_____ (10), and outside each s_____ (11) area.

Test smoke alarms each m_____ (12).

Find the answers on page 6.

Match the Answers: 1.h 2.f 3.i 4.c 5.j 6.d 7.e 8.b 9.g 10.a

Check What You Know!

Instructions: Circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Why is smoke dangerous?
 - a. It is fast.
 - b. It is silent.
 - c. It can kill you.
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

2. Where is the best place to install a smoke alarm?
 - a. On the floor.
 - b. Near a window.
 - c. Over the oven.
 - d. On or near the ceiling.
 - e. Near a vent.

3. Why is it important to have smoke alarms that work?
 - a. They make a loud noise and can wake you up when there is smoke.
 - b. They can save the life of someone in your family.
 - c. They give you time to get out of the home.
 - d. They can save your life.
 - e. All of the above

4. Smoke alarms should last for 10 years if you take care of them.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. What can you do to make sure a smoke alarm works?
 - a. Never test the smoke alarm.
 - b. Cover the alarm with tape.
 - c. Do not change the batteries.
 - d. Clean the alarm monthly when you test it.
 - e. None of the above

Find the answers on page 6.

Word Scramble Answers: 1.smoke 2.alarm 3.test 4.sprinkler 5.warn 6.flame 7.install 8.save 9.maintain 10.fire