



# Smoke Alarm Safety Checklist

**Take this quiz, and find out if you know all you need about the smoke alarms in your home.**

Does your home have at least one smoke alarm in each bedroom, near all sleeping areas, and on every level of the home, including the basement?

Yes  No

Do you know the difference between photoelectric, ionization and combination smoke alarms?

Yes  No

Do you know which type of smoke alarms are installed in your home? If no, look on the back of your smoke alarms.

Yes  No

Does your home have combination or both types of alarms?

Yes  No

Do you know how old your smoke alarms are?

Yes  No

Is everyone in your home familiar with the sound of the smoke alarms?

Yes  No

Do you test your smoke alarms each month?

Yes  No

Do you know if your smoke alarms are hard-wired or have wireless interconnection?

Yes  No

**IF YOU ANSWERED "No" to one or more of these questions, please follow these guidelines for proper installation, testing and maintenance of smoke alarms:**

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- There are two different types of smoke alarms: ionization and photoelectric. An ionization alarm is typically more responsive to a flaming fire, such as a pan fire. A photoelectric alarm is typically more responsive to a smoldering fire, as might occur where a lighted cigarette is dropped on a sofa.
- Combination alarms have both ionization and photoelectric detection technologies. For the best protection, use both types of alarms or combination alarms.
- Smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that when one alarm sounds, they all do. A licensed electrician can do an interconnection by using hard-wired, multiple-station smoke alarms.
- Wireless interconnection of smoke alarms is also available. A licensed electrician may need to replace existing hard-wired smoke alarms with those capable of wireless interconnection.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including those that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don't respond properly when tested.
- Smoke alarms should be tested monthly using the test button; everyone in the home should know the sound of the alarm. Save and follow the manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Whatever type of smoke alarms you choose, make sure they bear the mark of a recognized testing laboratory.



— Keeping Your Community Safe and Sound —