

SMOKE ALARMS

Newer smoke alarms sound a distinct pattern; groups of three beeps separated by a pause—beep-beep-beep, pause, etc. Older alarms sound a continuous tone or beep. Be sure everyone in your home knows the sound and knows what to do when they hear it.



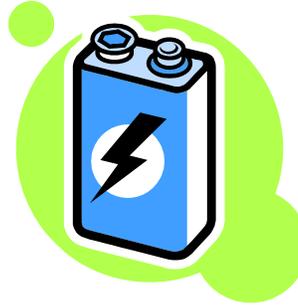
- ◆ Test your alarms once a month.
- ◆ Change the batteries twice a year when you change your clock.
- ◆ Never “borrow” batteries from the alarm.
- ◆ Replace smoke alarms after 10 years.
- ◆ Clean your smoke alarms with the wand from your vacuum. Spiders and webs can cause a faulty alarm.
- ◆ Never dismantle your alarm if it goes off when cooking. Simply move the location of the alarm so it is more functional.

SAFE MEETING PLACE

Plan your escape now and pick a safe meeting place for your family. Some suggestions are; a mailbox away from the house, a neighbors house, a light post, etc. Don't put your family in harms way by having your meeting place across the street unless it is absolutely necessary.

FALSE ALARMS

Cooking vapors, steam, and other fumes sometimes set off “nuisance” alarms. If this happens, don't take the battery out of your alarm. Relocate the alarm from the source of activation. Don't forget to clean your smoke alarms regularly, following manufacturer's instructions. Some alarms come with a pause button so you can disable them safely for a few minutes, then automatically turns back on.



MAINTENANCE

Never “borrow” a battery from your smoke alarm!

Test all your alarms monthly by pushing the “test button” and install new batteries twice a year. If you hear a chirping noise, this indicates low battery. Replace the battery immediately.

SMOKE ALARMS



www.woodsidefire.org
3111 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

The majority of home fires that kill people, happen at night. When you are asleep, your sense of smell is lowered to allow for a more sound sleep.

The smell of smoke won't wake you up. In fact, smoke and poisonous gases can put you into a deeper sleep. Children and older adults are affected more rapidly in a smoky environment.



Inexpensive home smoke alarms can wake you up, giving you and your family time to escape. Having a smoke alarm cuts your chances of dying in a home fire nearly in half. Smoke alarms do save lives, and in most states, are required by law.

In Marin County, it is required to have smoke alarms in all sleeping rooms, adjacent hallways and on every level if you live in a rental, have had upgrades, home base business such as a Daycare, are in the process of selling your home, or your home is brand new.



BUYING A SMOKE ALARM

Be sure that the smoke alarm that you buy has a UL (Underwriter's Label) to ensure the smoke alarm meets required standards. Some home smoke alarms use batteries, and others use household electrical current. Some smoke alarms use a combination of electricity and use batteries as a back up when power is out. All of them are good and it is up to you which will be best for your home and family.

Different smoke alarms work differently. There are different sensor technologies to detect smoke. All UL alarms, regardless of the type of sensor, will alarm you if installed, maintained, and tested properly.



Make sure your children know what to do if the smoke alarm goes off when sleeping. All families should have a fire escape plan and practice it during the day and at night.



INSTALLING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke rises, so make sure your smoke alarm is mounted on the ceiling. If you must place it on the wall, it should be 4 inches or less from the ceiling. In a room with a pitched ceiling, mount the alarm at the highest point. In stairways, place smoke alarm at the top of the stairs. Do not install smoke alarms in or near the kitchen or bathroom. It is not a good idea to install smoke alarms where there are fumes, steam or exhaust that might set off a false alarm.



If you purchase a smoke alarm that needs to be hard-wired to your electrical system, have a qualified electrician connect your alarms.