

KPM #8	HOMES WITH SMOKE ALARMS - Percent of homes that have a fire in which there is no working smoke alarm or no smoke alarm present.	Measure since: 2001
Goal	Fire Safety – Reduce loss of life and property as a result of fire and hazardous materials.	
Oregon Context		
Data source	Information obtained from Fire Incident Reports indicating no working smoke alarm or no smoke alarm present.	
Owner	Oregon State Fire Marshal, Nancy Orr, 503-373-1540	

1. OUR STRATEGY

A working smoke alarm gives occupants notice of the fire while there is still time to escape the rapidly growing smoke and deadly gases.

Fire departments and districts are a key partner for this measure.

2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

While nearly all homes have smoke alarms installed, most fatalities occur where smoke alarms are not working or not present.

3. HOW WE ARE DOING

We are holding steady. Improvements will be in smaller increments as the remaining target audience is the most challenging population to reach.

4. HOW WE COMPARE

Oregon compares favorably to the country on a whole where 39% of homes that have a fire have no working smoke alarm or no smoke alarm present.

5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

Older and low-income housing is less likely to have a sufficient number working smoke alarms. Homes built today have alarms in and outside every sleeping area. The alarms in new housing are electric powered, so battery replacement is not as critical as alarms solely battery powered. Data shows community fire alarm installation and media campaigns are an effective way to ensure working smoke alarms in high-risk neighborhoods. Oregon also passed legislation requiring only the sale of alarms with 10-year batteries.

6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

The Office of State Fire Marshal and the Oregon fire service install smoke alarms with long-life batteries in high-risk housing, carry out door-to-door smoke alarm campaigns, educate renters to maintain their smoke alarms and can hold rental owners accountable for replacing non-working smoke alarms.

7. ABOUT THE DATA

The reporting cycle is annual. Oregon fire departments are required to report all fire incidents to the Office of State Fire Marshal. Over 90% of all departments report, which includes 99% of the Oregon population. The validity of smoke alarm data depends upon information observed by firefighters or reported by residents of homes where fire occurs. More detailed data is available from the Office of State Fire Marshal data unit.

