

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

In the 5 year period from 2007 through 2011, 37 Oregonians died in house fires where there wasn't a working smoke alarm

Why should my home have smoke alarms?

- Seconds count! You have less than 3 minutes to escape a house fire.
- More fire deaths and injuries occur between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. when families are asleep.
- Most fire deaths are caused by smoke, not flames.
- Smoke kills silently. Most people do not wake up to the smell of smoke.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the warning of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Where should I install smoke alarms?

- Install alarms on every level of the home, outside each sleeping area and in every bedroom.

What if someone doesn't or can't hear the smoke alarm?

- Many children sleep through the sound of a smoke alarm. **It is the adults responsibility to awaken them and make sure they get out safely!!**
- Smoke alarms are available for the deaf and hard of hearing.

How do I keep my smoke alarm working?

- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Clean smoke alarms with compressed air or vacuum regularly to remove dust and cobwebs.
- Never disconnect or remove smoke alarm batteries for other uses.
- Replace all smoke alarms after 10 years or if they do not respond when the test button is pushed.
- For photoelectric and hard wired alarms, replace the batteries and/or back up battery at least once per year or when it starts to chirp.
- If the smoke alarms goes off and there is no fire, (i.e. burning toast) push the hush button. It will beep once a minute for up to 15 minutes and then reset itself. Never remove the battery. Open the windows and doors to clear the smoke.

**Your fire agency has more information
to help you prevent a fire.**

Call them or visit:

http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Com_Ed_Section.shtml

Remember, Home Fire Safety is Up to You!