

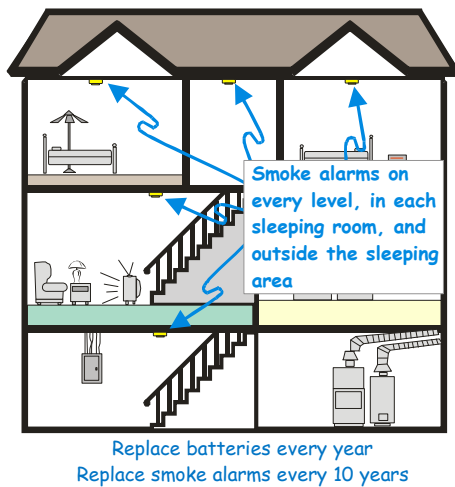
# Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms save lives. They can detect a fire early, and alert consumers, giving them valuable time to escape.

Despite that well-known fact, about two-thirds of fire deaths take place in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms, e.g., smoke alarms with no batteries or dead batteries.



Every year, there are more than 300,000 residential fires. Many are preventable by following a few simple steps.



- ✓ Install smoke alarms in your home. CPSC recommends smoke alarms on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms. Replace batteries annually.
- ✓ Never leave cooking equipment unattended.
- ✓ Have a professional inspect your heating, cooling, and water appliances annually.
- ✓ Inspect electrical cords for signs of wear, cracks, or age, and keep lighting away from combustibles.
- ✓ Use caution with candles, lighters, matches, and smoking materials near upholstered furniture, mattresses, and bedding. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of young children.
- ✓ Have a fire escape plan and practice it so family members know what to do and where to meet if there's a fire in your home.

When shopping for smoke alarms, consumers should consider the different types of smoke alarms. Both types are effective smoke sensors. Ionization type detectors respond quickly to flaming fires. Photoelectric type detectors respond sooner to smoldering fires. Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires, and because homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home, CPSC staff recommends consumers install both ionization and photoelectric type smoke alarms in their homes. There are smoke alarms that combine both detection technologies into one unit called dual sensor smoke alarms.

In addition, consider interconnected smoke alarms. Interconnected smoke alarms allow all smoke alarms in the home to sound if one has detected smoke, and they may provide improved protection and offer more time to escape a fire.

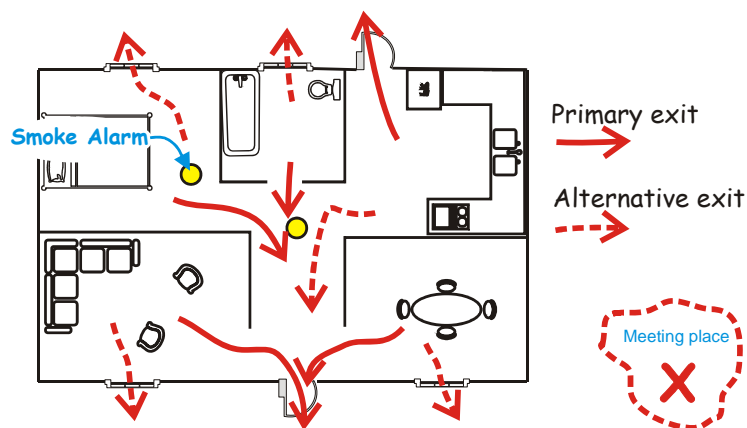
## Every Family Should Have a Working Smoke Alarm and a Fire Escape Plan

The CPSC staff recommends that if you don't have a working smoke alarm in your home, **GET ONE AND INSTALL IT.**

To provide BETTER warning of a fire, and more escape time, the CPSC staff recommends installing more than one working smoke alarm in your home. More smoke alarms provide better coverage and earlier warning of a fire. Consider interconnecting all the smoke alarms in your home. If one smoke alarm detects a fire, all the smoke alarms will sound. Consider smoke alarms that use 10 year sealed batteries. These smoke alarms don't require annual battery replacement and provide protection for 10 years.

To provide the BEST protection with smoke alarms, the CPSC staff recommends installing both ionization and photoelectric type smoke alarms. Both types of fires, smoldering or flaming, can occur in a home and having both types provides the best coverage. Install smoke alarms on every level, outside the sleeping areas, and inside the bedrooms to detect and alert you of a fire and provide enough escape time. Interconnect all the smoke alarms in your home to alert you and your family when a fire occurs anywhere in your home. Use smoke alarms that are powered by house wiring with battery back-up.

Installing working smoke alarms is an essential, but they don't save lives unless everyone knows how to get out of the home safely. Make sure everyone knows how to escape when the smoke alarm sounds, whether awake or sleeping at the time. In your fire escape plan, have two ways out of each room, a pre-arranged meeting place outside and, most importantly, **ONCE OUT - STAY OUT!**



A working smoke alarm is the most important step in protecting your family in a fire. It could mean the difference between life and death when a fire occurs.

For more information on smoke alarms and preventing a fire, visit the CPSC website, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) and [CPSC Document #559, Smoke Alarms – Why, Where, and Which](#)