

# Smoke Alarms:

## they can only save your life if they're present & functional

While to many this might seem like very obvious and common knowledge, statistics show that this is not the case. The lack of understanding and education that exists today on this serious matter has led to many devastating and deadly events.

Research by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) indicates that while 94% of American homes have at least one smoke alarm, more than 1/3 are inoperable because of dead or missing batteries. Nearly 1/2 of our nation's fire deaths occur in the 6% of homes with no smoke alarms at all.

### the great illusion

Research by the Society of Fire Protection Engineers shows that the vast majority of Americans, 79%, feel safer from fire in their homes than in public buildings. The fact is, public buildings have strict safety regulations, and are significantly better protected than homes. Home fires out number other building fires by more than three to one.

**Fact:** The majority of fires occur in the home while you are sleeping.

### the great advice

- Place working smoke alarms inside your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Vacuum alarms annually to remove dust and cobwebs.
- Replace old alarms. Smoke alarms ten years old and older need to be replaced.
- Alarms should never be disconnected and batteries should never be removed for other uses.



a working smoke alarm *doubles* your chances of surviving a fire

## Test

Test your smoke alarm at least once a month. Push the test button or blow smoke into the detector.



## Clean

Clean your alarm at a minimum of once a year. Vacuum out the dust and cobwebs that have accumulated.



## Replace

Replace the battery every year. Better yet, twice a year – when you change your clocks in the spring and fall.

Replace your smoke alarm after ten years.

