



NO ALARM – NO CHANCE!!

Smoke detectors are the most important early notification device in your home to alert you to a fire! But it takes more than changing the battery at least once a year to ensure that you and your family are properly protected. We are already on pace to surpass the total number of fire deaths in 2008. In many of the cases, there were either no smoke detectors present, or the detectors did not work. This is not acceptable!

Did You Know?

Most smoke detector manufacturers recommend that detectors be replaced at least every ten years. Some recommend replacement even sooner. Do you know how old your detectors are? If you don't know how old they are or, if they are more than 10 years old, now is a great time to replace them! But did you know there will soon be new requirements for the type of smoke detectors you install in your home?

Technology is Good!

Effective April 1, 2010, the State Fire Marshal is requiring all new residential construction to be equipped with dual-sensor smoke detectors. So how are these detectors different from what I have in my home now? Most detectors in homes currently use 'ionization' technology to detect the smoke. Ionization detectors are best at the early detection of rapidly spreading, flaming fires. Some homes may have detectors that use 'photoelectric' technology to detect the smoke. Photoelectric detectors are best at the early detection of slow burning, smoldering fires. Dual-sensor smoke detectors combine both technologies into one detector.

What if My Detectors Don't Need to be Replaced Right Now?

If the ionization or photoelectric smoke detectors in your home currently meet all the manufacturer's recommendations, you are not required to immediately replace them with dual-sensor detectors. However, when you have a detector that needs to be replaced, **it must be replaced with a dual-sensor detector.**

Will I Notice Anything Different with the Dual-Sensor Detectors?

Not really. The appearance, mounting instructions, maintenance, and testing procedures mimic the detectors you currently have in your home. It is important that you read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations that come with the dual-sensor detector.

Please do your part to help reduce the number of fire injuries and death. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms are the key to ensuring early notification in the event of a fire. This is critical to improving the chance of surviving in a fire!

Other Important Safety Tips

- **Develop and practice a home fire escape plan!**
- **Looking at building a new home? Install a home fire sprinkler system. They are reliable and very effective!**
- **Make sure your furnace and fireplace is cleaned and inspected annually by a professional!**