



Tulsa Fire Department

Protecting Community Life, Health, Property and the Environment
By Delivering Quality Life and Fire Safety Services.

Community Relations / Public Education Branch

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Smoke Alarm Safety

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries, and have contributed to an almost 50% decrease in fire deaths since the late 1970s. An estimated 890 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms. In 2004 65% of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Only 8% of those that had installed smoke detectors said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out! The Tulsa Fire Department offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference to you and increase your survival rate dramatically.

Smoke Alarm Life-Saving Tips

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home also install one outside and inside every bedroom.
- Sleep with the doors closed on your bedrooms
- Check smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button. If you cannot reach the test button use a broom handle.
- Change the batteries in your alarm twice a year whether they need it or not. Do this when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what they need to do when they hear it. Get out and Stay out
- Do not remove the batteries to put in other appliances
- Smoke alarms wear out over time. Replace yours if it is 8 years old or more
- Keep alarms clean. Dust and vacuum it regularly. Do not disassemble your detector to clean it
- Make sure your hard-wired alarms have a battery back-up. If not you are unprotected if you lose power
- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

Did You Know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home
- Nearly one third of the residential fires and two-fifths of residential fatalities occur in homes with no smoke alarms
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling.
- Having a working smoke detector reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half
- For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths, please contact The Tulsa Fire Departments Community Relations / Public Education Branch @ 669-6186