

# Fire Safety

## Facts About Smoke Alarms



- ◆ Over 93 percent of homes in the U.S. have at least one smoke alarm.
- ◆ Over the years, as the number of smoke alarms in homes has gone up, the residential fire death rate has gone down nearly 50 percent. This shows how important it is to have a working smoke alarm in the home.

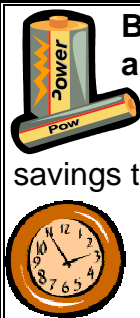
### HOWEVER. . . .

- ★ Experts estimate that 1 in 3 homes have a smoke alarm that does not work.
- ★ Some fire departments report that half of the homes have a smoke alarm that does not work.



### The two most common reasons for smoke alarms that do not work in homes are:

- 1) Disabling (*taking the battery out or disconnecting*) the smoke alarm to prevent it from making “annoying” sounds.
- 2) Not replacing the smoke alarm every 10 years.



**Batteries should be replaced twice a year.** Try to replace the battery in the spring and fall when you change your clock to daylight savings time. If you did not change the batteries in your smoke alarm yet, it is **NOT TOO LATE**, you can still do it **TODAY**.

## Safety Tips

- ★ **Do not smoke in your home.** Most fires are caused by a lit cigarette that has not been put out completely.
- ★ Make an escape plan in case of fire in your home. Teach your children what to do when the smoke alarm sounds, and practice what you and your children would do if there were a fire.
- ★ Smoke alarms that are 10 years old are near the end of their “service life” and should be replaced.



- ★ Smoke alarms that are wired into a home’s electrical system should also be replaced every 10 years.

- ★ Every home should have a smoke alarm outside each bedroom area. The alarm should be close enough to be heard through closed doors.
- ★ There should **ALWAYS** be at least one smoke alarm on each level of the home. If a home is large, it is better to use more than one smoke alarm on each level.



- ★ Every smoke alarm comes with a test button. You should test your alarms regularly, at least once a month.

