

When the smoke alarm sounds, **get outside and stay outside.**  
Go to your **outside meeting place.** Call **9-1-1** from a mobile phone or a trusted neighbor's phone.  
Stay outside until the fire department tells you it is safe to go back inside.

# Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You!™



You could have as little as two minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

## Installation

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- When installing, follow the instructions that come with the smoke alarm.
- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms. When one sounds, they all sound. It is important to have interconnected smoke alarms if you sleep with the bedroom doors closed.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall.

## How to Choose an Alarm

It is important to purchase a smoke alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. The two most common types of smoke alarms are ionization and photoelectric alarms.

- For the best protection, or where extra time is needed to wake up or help others, both types of alarms or dual sensor ionization-photoelectric alarms are recommended.
- An ionization smoke alarm is more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is more responsive to smoldering fires.
- Photoelectric smoke alarms are the best type of alarms to be installed near the kitchen and bathrooms to reduce nuisance alarms.

## Testing and Maintenance

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working.

## Replacement

- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- For smoke alarms that do not have non-replaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

