

SMOKE ALARMS



Almost two-thirds of all home fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. Protect your family by installing smoke alarms, inspecting them regularly, and practicing home fire drills.



Working smoke alarms reduce your risk of dying in a home fire by 50%.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

**(714) 573-6200
ocfa.org**



Install

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, in hallways outside bedrooms or sleeping areas, and on every level of the home.
- Install smoke alarms on the ceiling or high on a wall. Make sure they are at least 10 feet from the stove and 3 feet from doors leading to the kitchen to reduce false alarms.
- Keep smoke alarms away from bathrooms with tubs or showers, heating or cooling ducts or vents, and ceiling or whole-house fans.
- Check the back for the manufacture date and replace all alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Use interconnected smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound.
- It's safest to use both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms. Ionization alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires.
- Special alarms with strobe lights and bed shakers are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Inspect

- Test all smoke alarms once a month.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working well.

Protect

- Draw a home escape plan that shows two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do if they hear it.
- Practice home fire drills at least twice a year.

Disposal

- Check the label on the device or research the type of alarm you have. Not all smoke alarms have radioactive materials.
- If your device does not contain radioactive materials per the product description, you can remove the battery and dispose of the alarm in the trash.
- If your product does contain radioactive materials, Orange County residents can bring it to any of OC Waste and Recycling's four Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers for free recycling. Visit **www.oclandfills.com** for more information on disposal locations.