

# SMOKE ALARMS



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



**Orange County Fire Authority**

**714-573-6200**

**[ocfa.org](http://ocfa.org)**



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

## **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're at least 10 feet from the stove and three 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. Replace all alarms when they're 10 years old.
- Use interconnected smoke alarms. 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 manufacture'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.