

## Mission Statement

The Fire Safety Education Section of the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (DCFEMS) is committed to reducing the risk of incidents, injuries, fatalities, and property loss due to a fire emergency. Although it is vital that all citizens in the District of Columbia are taught fire safety, emphasis is made on children and senior citizens who are the most vulnerable.

**#DCFireSAFE**  
#DCFIRESAFE

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL EMERGENCY  
911**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUEST  
311 OR 727-1000**

**DEAF TDD RELAY SERVICES  
911 OR 202-479-2248**

**FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION  
202-727-1614**

**FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION  
202-727-1614**

**DCFEMS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
202-673-3331**

OR VISIT

FEMS.DC.GOV

[WWW.TWITTER.COM/DCFIREEMS](http://WWW.TWITTER.COM/DCFIREEMS)



[WWW.FB.COM/DCFIREANDEMS](http://WWW.FB.COM/DCFIREANDEMS)



## SMOKE ALARM



## FIRE SAFETY



## FIRE FACTS

This country has one of the highest rates of fire related deaths in the industrialized world. A small fire can become an uncontrollable flame in less than 30 seconds. Children under the age of five are at risk as well as people over the age of 65.

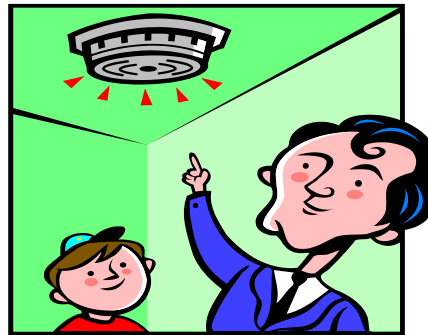
### WHY DO I NEED A SMOKE ALARM?

Smoke alarms can save your life and your family's lives. Most fatal fires occur at night while people are sleeping. Working smoke alarms can reduce your chance of dying in a fire. They also provide an early sign so that you and your family can escape.



## SMOKE ALARM PLACEMENT

Smoke alarms should be located on each level of your home (including the basement). Place smoke alarms inside each bedroom and outside of the sleeping area. If you have a high ceiling, place the smoke alarm at the highest point because smoke rises. Do not place smoke alarms near bathrooms, cooking areas or fireplaces.



## MOST POPULAR SMOKE ALARMS

**Hardwired** – These receive power from the home\building's electrical source. Some hardwired smoke alarms have a battery back up in case of a power failure.

**Lithium - ion** – A built in 10-year lithium-ion battery provides continuous power, with no need to ever worry about changing the battery during the lifetime of the alarm.

## SMOKE ALARM MAINTENANCE

- **Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.**
- **Change the battery when you change your clocks for the season.**
- **A certified electrician should install hardwired smoke alarms.**
- **Never paint your smoke alarm. It can interfere with the operation of the alarm.**
- **Vacuum your smoke alarm periodically to clear away any dust particles.**
- **Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years. Replace your old alarms with 10-year lithium-ion smoke alarms.**
- **The D.C. Fire & EMS Department installs smoke alarms for **FREE!****

**WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS ...**

**...GET OUT AND STAY OUT!**