



# Smoke Alarms



Missoula Rural Fire District encourages use of smoke alarms in your home/office and to routinely check the batteries. A good time to remember to do this is the springtime ritual of Daylight Savings Time, when we “Spring Forward” an hour. Here are some other handy tidbits:

## Installation

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound. Ionization smoke detection is generally more responsive to flaming fires and photoelectric smoke detection is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. Both types of technologies have improved home fire safety. Choose a smoke alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

## Testing

- Test smoke alarms in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions at least once a month using the test button.
- Use care to prevent falls when using step stools and ladders to test a smoke alarm.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

## Deaf or hard of hearing

- Use smoke alarms made for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These alarms use strobe (flashing) lights or a vibration device for the bed.

## Sleeping with bedroom door open or closed

- Make sure everyone can hear the sound of the smoke alarms and knows what your smoke alarms sound like. If you sleep with bedroom doors closed, have interconnected smoke alarms.

## Smoke alarm replacement

- Replace all smoke alarms (including hard-wired) when they are 10 years old.

## Fire deaths – no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms

- Sixty-five percent of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no working smoke alarms.

## Battery replacement

- Install a new battery in all smoke alarms at least once a year. Immediately install a new battery if an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low.