

MAY Safety Talk

Topic: Home Fire Safety

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

A study of almost 50,000 fires in BC, Alberta and Ontario from 2006 to 2011, involving 663 deaths, revealed that the death rate was 74% higher in homes without functioning smoke alarms!

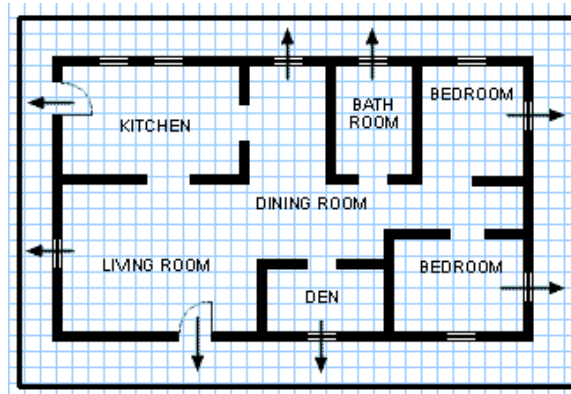
Safety Tips for Smoke Alarms

- ▶ There should be a smoke alarm on every floor in your home. Best practice is to place them in or just outside each bedroom as well.
- ▶ Test your smoke alarms monthly by pushing the "test" button. If it doesn't go off after a few seconds, replace the battery or replace the unit.
- ▶ Batteries should be replaced twice a year. A good practice is to replace them when the clocks change from and to Daylight Savings Time.
- ▶ Units should be replaced at least every ten years, whether battery operated or hard-wired.
- ▶ Units should be cleaned regularly – vacuum and wipe the outside of the smoke alarms at least monthly.



Have a Fire Evacuation Plan in your Home!

Just as you have a Fire Evacuation plan at work, you should also have a plan at home. (If you have young children in the school system, they've probably already asked for one!) It doesn't have to be complicated.



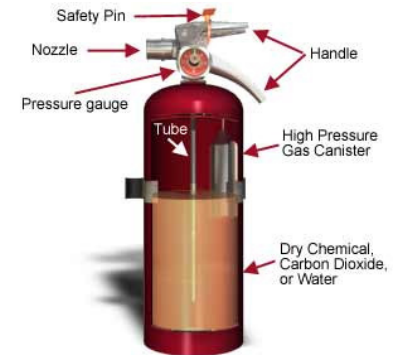
Think about two routes of escape from every room – consider escape ladders if second-floor bedrooms only have one escape option.

Make sure your whole family knows the escape route – practice an evacuation to be sure they do!

Fire Extinguishers

You should have a fire extinguisher on every floor in your home, and another in the kitchen. Know how to use it! Make sure they are checked annually and recharged as necessary.

Only attempt to put out a small fire – if the fire is larger than you can contain, get yourself and your family out, and call 911 from outside your house.



Prevent Fires from Happening!

- ▶ Take care when cooking – more than half of accidental fires in the home start because of something to do with cooking.
- ▶ Check for fire hazards in your home before you go to bed.
- ▶ Don't overload sockets – try to keep to one plug per socket; too many electrical appliances plugged into one socket can overload it, which can lead to overheating.
- ▶ Put cigarettes out – right out. More people die in fires caused by smoking products than in fires caused by anything else.
- ▶ Use candles carefully – candles, decorative lights and decorations are a growing cause of fires. Make sure candles are secured in a stable holder and kept away from curtains, fabrics and paper, and always put candles out when you are leaving the room or going to bed.