

GET ALARMED

INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS!

As many firefighters know from experience, most fire-related deaths occur at night, when people are asleep. A smoke alarm doubles your chances of surviving a fire because it warns you of the danger immediately, which means that you and your family have more time to escape.

The biggest killer in a home fire is the smoke which can cause occupants to go into an even deeper sleep until their breathing stops altogether. If occupants do manage to wake up, they will be completely disorientated by the toxic, black smoke and extensive heat, minimising their chances of making it out alive.

It is essential that an effective escape plan be implemented and practised by the whole family to ensure a quick and easy exit from a burning home. This means installing smoke alarms, drawing the floor plan of the house, clearly indicating two escape routes from each room and finally, allocating a predetermined safe meeting place outside for the family.

INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke alarms are relatively cheap and can be purchased from most major stores.

Place a smoke alarm on the ceiling in each room of your home. At a minimum, install one on each floor of your home between the sleeping area and the living area.

Test your smoke alarm at least once a month by pushing the test button until the alarm sounds. If the alarm does not sound, replace the battery and test again. Replace nine-volt batteries at least once a year. If the alarm begins to make a chirping noise, it is telling you that the battery is weak and needs replacing.

If smoke from cooking or steam from the bathroom activates the alarm, do not remove the batteries or disconnect the power source. Simply fan the smoke away from the alarm until it stops. If the problem persists, relocate the smoke alarm.

Remember, if your smoke alarm does not work properly, the consequences could be deadly!

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

From your landline:

10177

From your cellphone:

112