

Smoke Alarms Make Your Home Safer

- 19 of every 20 homes (95%) in the United States have at least one smoke detector
- Having smoke alarms in your home reduces your chance of dying in a fire nearly in half.
- More than half of home fire deaths result from fires in the 5% of homes with no smoke alarms.
- In three of every 10 reported fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms the devices did not work, most often because of missing, dead or disconnected batteries.



On December 22nd 1997 at 2:04 am, the residents of this home at 400 Roycroft Blvd. were awakened by their smoke detector and escaped without injury from this fast moving fire that caused \$240,000 damage

Smoke Detector Safety

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Make sure there is an alarm in or near every sleeping area.
- Test your smoke alarm at least once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year or as soon as it "chirps", warning that the battery is low. HINT: schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clock from daylight to standard time in the fall. It is easily remembered: "change your clock change your batteries".
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm. Smoke alarms can't warn you of a fire if the battery is missing or has been disconnected.
- Don't disable smoke alarms even temporarily – you may forget to replace the battery. If your smoke alarm is sounding "nuisance alarms", it may need dusting or vacuuming. If that doesn't work, try relocating it further away from kitchens and bathrooms, where cooking fumes and steam can cause the alarm to sound.
- Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm(s) following manufacturer's instructions can help keep it working properly.
- Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace your smoke alarm every 10 years.
- Make sure everyone in your home can identify and awaken to the sound of the alarm.