



Smoke alarms detect and alert people to fire in its early stages, giving them the time needed to escape safely.

SMOKE ALARM TALKING POINTS

TYPES OF SMOKE ALARMS

There is a difference between smoke alarms and smoke detectors:

- A **smoke alarm** detects smoke and the unit sounds the alarm.
- A **smoke detector** is part of a fire alarm system that uses a separate fire alarm control unit. The detector senses the smoke and sends a signal to the control unit to sound the alarm.

There are two different types of smoke alarms: ionization and photoelectric.

- An **ionization alarm** is typically more responsive to a flaming fire, such as a pan fire.
- A **photoelectric alarm** is typically more responsive to a smoldering fire, such as when a lit cigarette is dropped on a sofa.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SMOKE ALARMS

- There are some smoke alarms with strobes or the ability to be used with strobes, also called visible notification appliances, that signal to awaken those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- The use of tactile notification appliances (such as a pillow or bed shaker) is also available. These are activated by the sound of the smoke alarm.
- A complex low frequency audible signal is used to activate the notification appliances.
- Smoke alarms currently on the market do not produce this low frequency signal. However, separate notification appliances are available that do produce this signal and are activated by the sound of the smoke alarm.

INSTALLATION

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms should be installed at least 10 feet from cooking areas to prevent unwanted alarms.



Replace batteries once a year, or when the alarm “chirps,” warning that the battery is low.

MAINTENANCE

- Smoke alarms should be tested monthly using the test button. Everyone in the home should know the sound of the alarm.
- Some smoke alarms are available with nonrechargeable, nonreplaceable 10-year batteries. The batteries in these alarms are not intended to be replaced.
- For smoke alarms that are powered only by replaceable batteries, annual replacement of the battery is best practice.
- Smoke alarms with replaceable batteries should get new batteries when the alarm chirps, warning that the batteries are low.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including those that use 10-year batteries and hardwired alarms (when they are 10 years old) or (if they don't respond properly when tested).

The **Indiana Department of Homeland Security** is committed to installing **10,000** smoke alarms across Indiana over the next two years. Register for smoke alarm(s) at GetAlarmed.in.gov






How fast does fire move? **Very fast.** You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

6 STEPS TO PRACTICING YOUR ESCAPE PLAN

1



MAP IT OUT
Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.

4




PLAN TO MEET
Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.

2




FIND 2 WAYS OUT
Whenever possible, find two ways out of every room.

5




TEST YOUR ALARM
Push the test button once a month to sound the smoke alarm.

3



KEEP IT CLEAR
Make sure doors and windows are not blocked by furniture.

6



PRACTICE
Practice your drill with everyone in your home.



FOR SENIORS

Your risk of dying in a home fire is greater as you get older. Knowing what to do if there is a fire can make a big difference. Keep eyeglasses, keys, hearing aids and a phone within reach next to your bed.

The **Indiana Department of Homeland Security** is committed to installing **10,000** smoke alarms across Indiana over the next two years. Register for smoke alarm(s) at GetAlarmed.in.gov



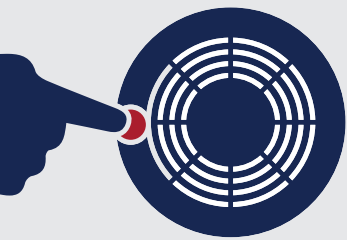


If there is a fire, you may have less than 3 minutes to get out of your home. Prepare your family and **GET ALARMED**.

PUT A CHECK IN FRONT OF EACH STATEMENT THAT IS TRUE FOR YOUR HOME

SMOKE ALARMS

- Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.



TEST YOUR ALARM REGULARLY

Your smoke alarm is working if it makes a noise when you press the “test” button.

COOKING SAFETY

- The cooking area has no items that can burn.
- People stay in the kitchen when they are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.
- Pot handles are always turned toward the back of the stove.

ESCAPE PLAN

- There is a fire escape plan that shows two ways out of every room.
- Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- Everyone living in the home practices the escape plan twice annually.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

This is especially important for homes using natural gas/ fireplaces.

- Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

ELECTRICAL AND APPLIANCE SAFETY

- All electrical cords are in good condition and not frayed, broken or cut.
- People remove the dryer of lint after every load.
- All plug outlets are safe and do not feel warm when touched. (If they are warm, call the landlord or an electrician.)

CANDLE SAFETY

- Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- Adults blow out all candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Candles are kept out of the reach of children and pets.



CHILDREN ARE SOMETIMES CURIOUS ABOUT FIRE

If children are present in the home, lock up any items that can start a fire (matches, lighters, cigarettes, etc.) and make sure children cannot reach candles.

The **Indiana Department of Homeland Security** is committed to installing **10,000** smoke alarms across Indiana over the next two years. Register for smoke alarm(s) at GetAlarmed.in.gov

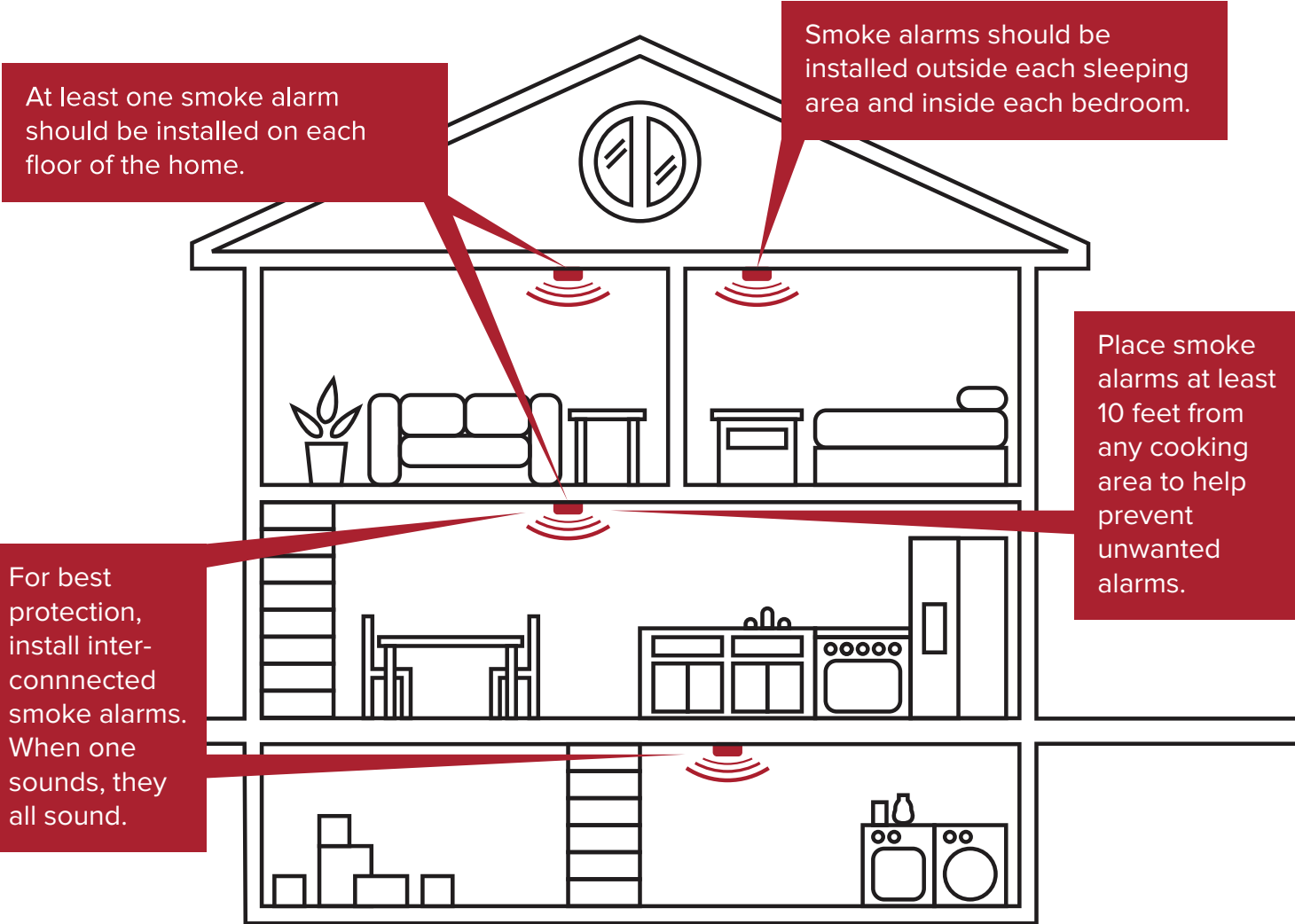


American Red Cross





Nationally, more than two-thirds of fatal fires occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. Let's change that and **GET ALARMED**.



TEST ALARMS

Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

REPLACE ALARMS

Replace alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.

GET OUT

When the alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.

CALL 911

Call the fire department from a cell phone or neighbor's phone.

The **Indiana Department of Homeland Security** is committed to installing **10,000** smoke alarms across Indiana over the next two years. Register for smoke alarm(s) at GetAlarmed.in.gov

