

For more information, contact your local fire department or  
S.C. Office of State Fire Marshal  
141 Monticello Trail  
Columbia, SC 29203  
(803) 896-9800

S.C. Office of State Fire Marshal  
141 Monticello Trail  
Columbia, SC 29203

**Survivor or  Statistic ?**

**Get Fire Smart.**

**Life-Saving Facts About Smoke Alarms**

# WAYS TO GET FIRE SMART

## Get Alarmed South Carolina!

In less than two minutes, you can pass out or die from poisonous smoke. A smoke alarm doubles your chances of surviving a fire because it lets you know of a fire earlier, which means you and your family will have more time to escape.

So take action to protect life and property by installing smoke alarms.

### Safety Tips

#### Install

Most fires occur during the night while everyone is asleep. Install a working smoke alarm in each room of your home. At a minimum, install one on each level of your home between the sleeping area and the living area. Also, install the alarms on the ceiling or on the walls between 6-12 inches from the ceiling.



#### Test

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. Never remove batteries for other uses.

#### Maintain

Keep your smoke alarm properly maintained. Dust with a vacuum cleaner and make sure to remove any grease buildup.

#### Replace Batteries

Nine-volt batteries need to be replaced 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. Use only the type of batteries recommended by the smoke alarm manufacturer. Smoke alarm units should be replaced every 10 years.



A lithium battery-powered smoke alarm lasts approximately 10 years and should be replaced with a new lithium battery-powered smoke alarm.

**If your smoke detector does not work properly, the silence could be deadly!**