
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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RELEASE
DATE: October 31, 2013

CAL FIRE Urges Californians to Check Their Smoke Alarms **Keep Your Family Safe and Make Sure Your Alarm Works**

Sacramento – To help reduce the number of home fire fatalities, CAL FIRE is reminding all Californians to make sure they have working smoke alarms in their homes. Nearly two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no working smoke alarms. A little attention to these important life saving devices can go a long way in increasing your chance of surviving a devastating fire.

“Smoke alarms give you and your family an early warning when there is a fire so you can quickly escape to safety,” stated California State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover. “Making sure you have a working smoke alarms in your home will help keep you, your family and guests safe.”

Smoke alarm safety tips:

- Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms **both inside and outside** of sleeping areas and on **every** level of your home.
- Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.
- Get smoke alarms that can sound fast to all types of fires. CAL FIRE recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with ionization **and** photoelectric smoke alarms **or** dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- Inspect, test and clean smoke alarms and change alkaline batteries at least once every year, or when the alarm signals (“chirps”) the end of the battery life. You can use a date you already know, like your birthday or when you change your clocks as a reminder.
- Follow manufacturer’s instructions if you have a 10-year smoke alarm which uses a long-life lithium battery.
- Never paint over a smoke alarm.
- Replace your smoke alarm at least every ten years.
- Practice exit drills so everyone understands what to do when they hear a smoke alarm.

Keep your smoke alarm working, **NEVER REMOVE BATTERIES FROM YOUR ALARM.**

For more information on smoke alarms, please visit the CAL FIRE’s website at http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_smokealarms.php.

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