

Mission Statement

The Fire Safety Education Section of the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (DCFEMS) is committed to reducing the risk of incidents, injuries, fatalities, and property loss due to a fire emergency. Although it is vital that all citizens in the District of Columbia are taught fire safety, emphasis is made on children and senior citizens who are the most vulnerable.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL EMERGENCY
911**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUEST
311 OR 727-1000**

**DEAF TDD RELAY SERVICES
911 OR 202-479-2248**

**FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
202-727-1600**

**FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION
202-727-1614**

**DCFEMS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
202-673-3331**

OR VISIT

FEMS.DC.GOV

 WWW.TWITTER.COM/DCFIREEMS

 WWW.FB.COM/DCFIREANDEMS



SMOKE ALARM



FIRE SAFETY



FIRE FACTS

This country has one of the highest rates of fire related deaths in the industrialized world. A small fire can become an uncontrollable flame in less than 30 seconds. Children under the age of five are at risk as well as people over the age of 65.

WHY DO I NEED A SMOKE ALARM?

Smoke alarms can save your life and your family's lives. Most fatal fires occur at night while people are sleeping. Working smoke alarms can reduce your chance of dying in a fire. They also provide an early sign so that you and your family can escape.



SMOKE ALARM PLACEMENT

Smoke alarms should be located on each level of your home (including the basement). Place smoke alarms on the ceiling outside of the sleeping area. If you have a high ceiling, place the smoke alarm at the highest point because smoke rises. Do not place smoke alarms near bathrooms, cooking areas or fireplaces.



MOST POPULAR SMOKE ALARMS

Hardwired – These receive power from the home\building's electrical source. Some hardwired smoke alarms have a battery back up in case of a power failure. A certified electrician should install this type of smoke alarm.

Battery – These are powered from a nine volt battery and can be installed by the home owner.

SMOKE ALARM MAINTENANCE

- **Change the battery when you change your clocks for the season.**
- **Never paint your smoke alarm. It can interfere with the operation of the alarm.**
- **Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.**
- **Vacuum your smoke alarm once a month. Dust can also interfere with the operation.**
- **Replace your alarm if it is over ten years old.**
- **The D.C. Fire & EMS Department installs smoke alarms for **FREE!****

WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS ...

...GET OUT AND STAY OUT!