

HOME SAFETY AWARENESS

Nothing is more important than keeping you and your loved ones safe at home. By implementing safe home practices, you can reduce the risk of incidents, accidents, and fires that could cause harm. Let's take a look at a few lifesaving systems for your home, how they work, and why they are crucial to keeping your home safe.

SMOKE DETECTOR

Smoke detectors are an important part of home safety; providing early warnings of smoke/fire that allow home occupants time to escape. It is recommended that a smoke detector be placed on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area. Position them on the ceiling or high on walls, away from vents and kitchen appliances to reduce false alarms.

Maintenance of smoke detector(s) in your home is crucial!

Test smoke detectors monthly by pressing the test button, replace batteries at least once a year and replace smoke detector(s) every ten years.



There are three main types of smoke detectors:

- 1) **Ionization:** Respond quickly to fast flaming fires.
- 2) **Photoelectric:** Respond faster to slow, smoldering fires.
- 3) **Dual Sensor:** Combines both fast flaming and slow smoldering technologies for maximum protection and detection.

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors protect against carbon monoxide poisoning, which is particularly dangerous, as CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can come from malfunctioning fuel-burning appliances. It is recommended that a CO detector be placed on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. They should be positioned at least five feet above the floor or according to the manufacturer's instructions. CO detectors should be tested monthly by pressing the test button, replace batteries as recommended by the manufacturer, and replace CO detectors every five to seven years (they lose sensitivity over time). ***Maintenance of CO detector(s) in your home is crucial!***



There are several types of CO detectors:

- 1) **Plug-in:** Easy to use and install (backup battery needs to be replaced yearly).
- 2) **Battery:** Wireless, protection during power outages.
- 3) **Combined:** Smoke detector/CO detector offers dual protection in a single device.

You should consider combined/dual systems for smoke and CO detectors. When one alarm sounds, they all do, providing early warnings throughout the home.

Make sure your home smoke and CO detectors are in top working condition--they can and do save lives!

**Every household should have an escape plan, and every member of the family should be familiar with it.
Practice your family escape plan often.**