



HARTLAND DEERFIELD FIRE AUTHORITY

FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE

Hartland Area Fire Dept.
3205 Hartland Road
Hartland, MI. 48353-1825

Voice: (810) 632-7676

E-Mail: jwhitbeck@hartlandareafire.com

Home Smoke Alarms

Fire Deaths — Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home.

Installation

1. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection.
2. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
3. It is especially important to have interconnected smoke alarms, if you sleep with doors closed.
4. Smoke alarms can be interconnected electrically by a qualified electrician or by installing battery-operated wireless interconnected smoke alarms.
5. For the best protection or where extra time is needed to awaken or assist others, both ionization smoke alarms and photoelectric smoke alarms or combination ionization-photoelectric alarms, also known as dual sensor smoke alarms, are recommended.
6. An ionization smoke alarm is more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is more responsive to smoldering fires.
7. Choose a smoke alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
8. Install smoke alarms away from the kitchen to prevent nuisance alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance.
9. Photoelectric smoke alarms are the best type of alarms to be installed near the kitchen and bathrooms to reduce nuisance alarms.
10. New multi-criteria smoke alarm technology will state “helps reduce cooking nuisance alarms” on the packaging. Consider using new multi-criteria alarms when it is time to replace existing photoelectric or ionization alarms.

Testing and Maintenance

1. Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
2. Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
3. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working. The instructions are included in the package or can be found on the internet.

People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

1. Install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
2. When the smoke alarm sounds, strobe lights flash to alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing of a possible fire when they are awake.
3. When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. This device is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm. People who are deaf may find that the shaker paired with a high-intensity strobe light is helpful to wake them.
4. When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound alert device should be used to wake them. They may find a pillow or bed shaker is helpful to wake them. These devices are activated by the sound of the standard smoke alarm.
5. Choose smoke alarms and accessories for people who are deaf or hard of hearing that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

Battery Replacement

1. Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
2. For smoke alarms that do not have non-replaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

Smoke Alarm Replacement

1. Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
2. Replace any smoke alarm that does not respond after a new battery has been installed.
3. Replace combination smoke-carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Rental Housing

1. All rental housing must have working smoke alarms.
2. Be sure smoke alarms are installed in all rental housing. Contact your landlord, property manager, or fire department for help.
3. Check with your local fire or building department for information about state and local ordinances on smoke alarm installation and maintenance in rental housing.
4. Maintenance of the smoke alarms may be the responsibility of the landlord or the renter, depending on the rental agreement. Maintain the smoke alarm in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.