



Bakersfield Composite Squadron #121



60-Second Safety Advisor #3

Home Fire Safety

About 370,000 homes are the scenes of fires each year, and about 80 percent of deaths from fire occur in homes, according to the NFPA. An overwhelming number of the victims are children and the elderly.

Smoke alarms provide an early warning to enable an escape, and it is very important to maintain these life-saving devices. A smoke alarm reduces the risk of dying in a fire by almost 50 percent, according to the NFPA, but nearly 1,200 children die each year in homes without working alarms. Like other electronic devices, smoke alarms won't last forever. Replace them every 10 years. Keep smoke alarms connected and working. Replace low batteries immediately and all batteries annually. Hit the "test" button each month to check the alarm. A chirp signals a low battery.

Here are some addition fire safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home so that family members can hear them wherever they are.
- Never disconnect smoke alarms or borrow the batteries.
- Create a home escape plan. Practice it.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, well away from children.
- Keep combustible materials, such as kitchen towels and newspapers, away from heat sources, such as candles, burners and portable heaters.
- Have professionals check the fireplace and furnace annually, and clean if necessary.
- Don't overload electrical circuits.
- In case of fire, leave your home immediately. Don't try to save anything. Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.

