

Important Reminders:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement.
- Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning.
- For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible.
- Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

For more information contact:

Spring Lake Fire Department



300 Ruth Street

PO Box 617

Spring Lake, NC 28390

Non-emergency number:(910) 436 - 0337

Fax: (910) 436 - 1083

www.spring-lake.org



Smoke Alarms



Promotion, Prevention, Protection





In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are a very important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal — so you and your family can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family and your home.



There are many different brands of smoke alarms available on the market but they fall into two basic types: ionization and photoelectric. Ionization alarms sound more quickly when a flaming, fast moving fire occurs. Photoelectric alarms are quicker at sensing smoldering, smoky fires. There are also combination smoke alarms that combine the two into one unit, called dual sensor smoke alarms. Because both smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires and because homeowners cannot predict what type fire might start in a home, the USFA recommends the installation of both. In addition to the basic alarms, there are alarms made to meet the needs of people with hearing disabilities. These alarms may use strobe lights and/or vibrate to assist in alerting those who are unable to hear standard smoke alarms when they sound.

Most alarms installed today have a life span of about 8-10 years. After this time, the entire unit should be replaced. It is a good idea to write the date of purchase with a marker inside your alarm so you will know when to replace it. In any event, always follow the manufacturer's instructions for replacement. Remember, if the smoke alarm goes off when cooking, do not disable your alarm—you may not remember to enable it again. Instead, clear the air around it. The alarm may need to be moved if it continuously goes off. Some of the newer models have "hush" buttons.

If your smoke alarms are hard wired, that is wired to the electrical system, you will need a professional to install them or install replacements. For battery powered smoke alarms, all you will need for installation is a screw driver. Some brands are self adhesive and will easily stick to the wall or ceiling where they are placed. For all smoke alarm installations, be sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions because there are differences between the various brands.

Many hardware, home supply or general merchandise stores carry smoke alarms. If you are unsure where to buy one, call the local fire department (non-emergency number) and they will provide you with some suggestions.



Test your batteries on a regular basis. A smoke alarm is no good if it does not work.