

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTERS

## PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM A HOME FIRE

How fire-safe is your household? Somewhere in America, a home fire occurs roughly every 85 seconds. Most importantly, every two and a half hours someone is killed in a home fire, this includes an average of three children per day.

Most victims of fire succumb to the smoke and toxic gases - not to burns. The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 2a.m and 4a.m. – when most people are asleep. In the U.S., between 75 and 80 percent of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Although smoke alarms are present in over 94% of American homes, nearly 25% of those do not work, mostly due to worn or missing batteries, leaving over 16 million homes at needless risk. Use this checklist to find out if you are taking the right steps to protect your family:

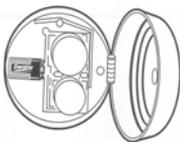
### Count Your Smoke Alarms

Be sure there is at least one smoke alarm installed on every level of your home, including one in every bedroom and outside of each sleeping area.



### Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries

It only takes a moment, but this simple habit is the best defense your family has against the devastating effects of a home fire. Fire professionals encourage people to change their batteries annually. An easy way to remember is to **“Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery.”**



This year, change the batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clocks back to standard time on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Clean Your Smoke Alarms

Ensure your smoke alarms’ sensitivity by cleaning them each month of dust and cobwebs.



### Check Your Smoke Alarms

After inserting a fresh battery in each detector, push the test button to make sure that the alarm is in proper working condition.



Never disconnect your smoke alarm battery! Remember, that ‘chirping’ alarm signal is a signal that it needs a fresh battery. Also, install brand new smoke alarms every ten years.

### Change Your Flashlight Batteries

Keep flashlights with fresh batteries at your bedside for help in finding the way out and signaling for help in the event of a fire.

### Get the Whole Family Involved

Once smoke alarms are installed and have fresh batteries, you should make sure family members, children in particular, know what the alarm sounds like and what to do if the alarm sounds. Make fire safety a priority by:

- Create & Practice a fire escape plan with two ways out.
- Choose a meeting place.
- Keep emergency phone numbers handy.
- Teach kids how and when to dial 9-1-1.

