

SECTION 1

EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES BY TOPIC*

CHAPTER 1 Home Smoke Alarms

1.1 Fire Deaths — Smoke Alarms Save Lives

1.1.1 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.

1.2 Installation

1.2.1 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.

1.2.2 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.

1.2.2.1 It is especially important to have interconnected smoke alarms, if you sleep with doors closed.

1.2.3 Smoke alarms can be interconnected electrically by a qualified electrician or by installing battery-operated wireless interconnected smoke alarms.

1.2.4 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.

1.2.5 An ionization smoke alarm, in general, is more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm, in general, is more responsive to smoldering fires.

1.2.6 Choose a smoke alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

1.2.7 Install smoke alarms away from the kitchen to prevent nuisance alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 metres) from a cooking appliance.

1.2.8 Photoelectric type smoke alarms are the best type of alarms to be installed near the kitchen.

1.3 Testing and Maintenance

1.3.1 Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.

1.3.2 Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

1.3.3 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.

1.4 People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

1.4.1 Install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

1.4.2 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.

1.4.2.1 When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them

* For further information on these chapter topics, go to nfpa.org/public-education