

# Home Smoke Alarms

Many homeowners probably think their residence is well protected. A large number of single and multiple occupancy residential buildings in Tellico Village are greater than 10 years old. Consider that the code that was in place when your contractor build your residence may not be in compliance with the latest code requirements. Also many purchased pre-existing residences and may have never inspected their home smoke alarms, they only investigate when they hear a periodic chirping sound. Information may have never been disclosed from the previous owner what modifications have taken place, or what their maintenance plan was. Basically if the smoke detector is a light yellow color it's too old. Don't think about replacing them do it immediately for your safety.

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. For the period of 2009-2013, smoke alarms sounded in more than half (53%) of the home fires reported to U.S. fire departments. Three of every five home fire deaths resulted in fires in homes with no smoke alarms (38%) or no working smoke alarms (21%). No smoke alarms were present in almost two out of every five (38%) home fire deaths.

**IMPORTANT FACTS THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!** The National Fire Protection Association recommends installing smoke alarms inside and outside every bedroom and sleeping area. Make sure that alarms are installed on every of the home. Install alarms in the basement or crawl space areas, and in attics. Larger homes may require substantially higher number of smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When on sounds, they all sound. It is recommended that smoke alarms be tested at least once a month.

There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home. Smoke alarms should be installed either on the ceiling or high on a wall (remember smoke rises.) If you have ceiling's that are pitched, install the alarm within 3 feet of the peak but not within the apex of the peak (four inches down from the peak). Recommend to keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove. People who are hearing impaired or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers. Remember don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation. Also never paint smoke alarms. Paint, stickers, or other decorations could keep the alarms from working. **It is extremely important to replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.**

Fire research has demonstrated that with today's modern furnishings, fires can spread much more rapidly than in the past when more natural materials were used. Did you know you typically have a little as three minutes to escape from a house fire? For your personal safety when a smoke alarms sounds, get outside and stay outside. Immediately contact E-911 dispatcher. Never consider the circumstance to be a "false alarm". Do not attempt to reenter the residence until instructed by the fire department.

Realistically not every owner may be physically capable of climbing a ladder to inspect or install new smoke alarms. There are numerous licensed certified contractors in the immediate area that can perform these tasks for you. Numerous factors come into play so there is now easy way to estimate

what the cost maybe. A good way of knowing how much is to get multiple quotes. Remember your safety is more valuable.