

Fire Safety Tips

Winter typically means colder weather, more time spent indoors, and the use of alternative heating sources if you experience a power outage.

Smoke Alarms:

Choosing the Right Smoke Alarm and Sensors: Select from various types, including battery-operated, hardwired, and combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Consider features like a 10-year sealed battery for hassle-free maintenance.

Placement Guidelines: Install smoke alarms on every level and room of your home and workplace, ideally at least 10 feet away from any cooking equipment to reduce the chances of false alarms. For optimal performance, mount alarms on ceilings or high on walls (within 12 inches of the ceiling) since smoke rises.

Installation Steps: Use a drill and mounting hardware to secure the smoke alarm. Mark drilling points at least 8 inches from walls and follow manufacturer instructions for proper installation.

Test:

Regular Testing: Test and inspect smoke alarms monthly. This ensures that they are functioning correctly and can alert you in case of a fire.

Cleaning: Clean smoke alarms at least once a year using a vacuum to remove dust and debris that could interfere with their operation.

Replace:

Battery Maintenance: Change batteries twice a year, even if alarms are not beeping. This proactive approach ensures that alarms remain operational.

Replacement of Units: Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years or sooner if they fail to operate during testing. Upgrading to newer models with enhanced features can significantly improve safety.

Additional Fire Safety Tips:

While smoke alarms and fire escape plans are the primary focus of this year's fire prevention week, there are more fire safety practices that can help you keep your home safe.

Fire Escape Planning: Develop and practice an escape plan with all household members, ensuring everyone knows multiple exit routes.

Fire Safety in the Kitchen: Stay vigilant while cooking; avoid leaving food unattended and keep flammable materials away from heat sources.

Fire Extinguishers: Keep accessible fire extinguishers on each level of your home, particularly in kitchens and garages, and ensure everyone knows how to use them properly.