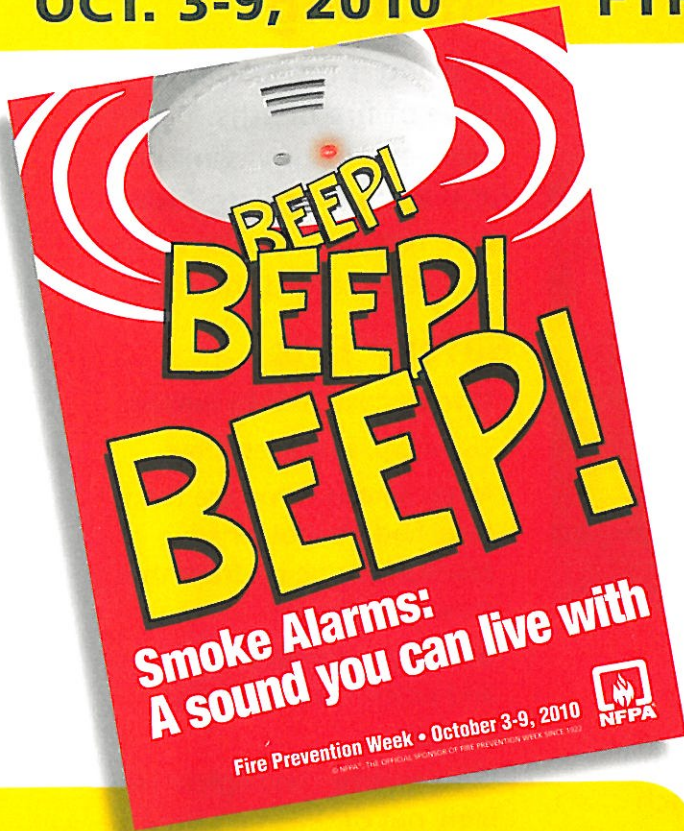


FireFacts



OCT. 3-9, 2010

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with

Fire Prevention Week commemorates the **Great Chicago Fire** — the two-day blaze that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 more homeless, and destroyed more than 17,000 buildings **October 8-9, 1871**.

That tragedy inspired reform across America, spurring new fire safety codes and public awareness campaigns. Each October, the **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)** sponsors a fire prevention campaign to highlight the importance of fire safety education. This year's theme focuses on how smoke alarms save lives and should be installed and maintained in every home. Motivating people to install these early warning devices and teaching them how to choose, install, and maintain them for maximum protection is a healthy change we can make happen.

Facts About Fire— 2008 in review...

- U.S. fire departments responded to 386,500 home fires.
- Home fires killed 2,755 people and injured 13,160.
- Someone was injured in a reported home fire every 40 minutes.
- Roughly eight people died in home fires every day.
- A fire department responded to a home fire every 82 seconds.
- 83% of all fire deaths and 79% of fire injuries resulted from home fires.

2008 is the latest year for available data.

Leading causes of home fires



Smoking

Smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths. Twenty-four percent of victims of fatal smoking-related fires were not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.

Safety Tips

- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Use deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Never smoke if you are tired, have had alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you sleepy.
- Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are out.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach.
- Never smoke in a home where medical oxygen is used.

Cooking

Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and injuries. Cooking equipment is involved in 40% of reported home fires each year. Unattended cooking is by far the leading cause of cooking fires.

Safety Tips

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you have to leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Don't use the oven or stovetop if you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol.
- If you are baking, roasting or simmering food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking something.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
- Keep pets away from cooking surfaces and nearby countertops to prevent them from knocking things onto the burners.



and how to prevent them.



Electrical

Electrical failure or malfunctions are factors in roughly 50,000 reported fires each year. These fires cause approximately 500 deaths and \$1.4 billion in property damage.

Safety Tips

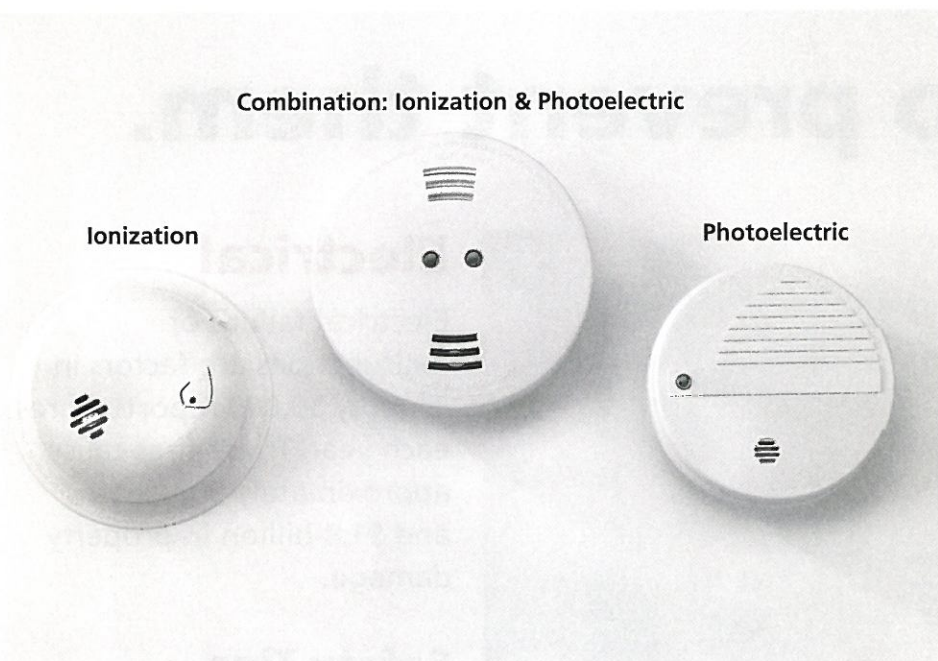
- Install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to protect electrical outlets. AFCIs protect against fire by continuously monitoring the electrical current in a circuit and shutting off the circuit when unintended arcing occurs.
- Replace or repair cracked, damaged and loose cords on all electrical devices.
- Don't overload outlets.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- If you have young children, install tamper-resistant electrical outlets. If this is not possible, install protective outlet covers.
- If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have an electrician check them.
- When buying, selling or remodeling your home, have a complete professional electrical inspection.

Heating

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires, fire deaths, and fire injuries. Fixed or portable space heaters are involved in about three-quarters of home heating fire deaths.

Safety Tips

- Keep anything that can burn (curtains, clothes, bedding, etc.) at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Never use your oven for heating.
- Turn off space heaters when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen and burn only dry, seasoned wood.



Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms save lives and should be in every home. Working smoke alarms cut the chances of dying in a fire in half. While almost all homes in the U.S. have at least one smoke alarm, roughly two-thirds of reported home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or with smoke alarms that don't work.

Safety Tips

Alarm Types

- Typically an ionization smoke alarm is more responsive to flaming fires that spread rapidly.
- A photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires that produce a lot of smoke.
- For the best protection, install both types of alarms or a combination alarm.
- Be sure all alarms have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

Testing & Maintenance

- Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarm batteries at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.

Safety Tips

Special Considerations

- Smoke alarms with a recordable voice announcement in addition to the usual alarm sound may help wake children through the use of a familiar voice.
- Smoke alarms for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing are required to have vibration equipment; some also have strobe lights.
- Alarms with a hush button allow you to quickly silence nuisance alarms.
- If the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance, use an ionization alarm with a hush button or a photoelectric alarm.

Installation

- Install alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level, including the basement.
- Alarms that run on household current must be installed by a qualified electrician.
- Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

For more about NFPA:

- www.nfpa.org

For more safety information for kids:

- www.sparky.org

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