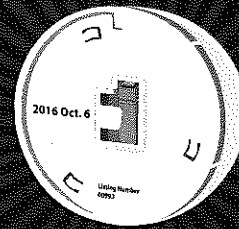




FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



# FPW NEWS

## Don't Wait – Check the Date!

### Replace smoke alarms every 10 years



Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire, October 8–9, 1871 – the two-day blaze that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres. The tragedy inspired reform across America, spurring new fire-safety codes and public awareness campaigns. Each October, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) serves as the official sponsor of a nationwide fire prevention campaign to highlight the importance of fire safety education. This year's theme focuses on replacing smoke alarms every 10 years!

Watch *Lessons from History: The Chicago Fire* to learn more about this historic fire.  
[www.sparkyschoolhouse.org/#music-section](http://www.sparkyschoolhouse.org/#music-section)



## Smoke Alarm Basics

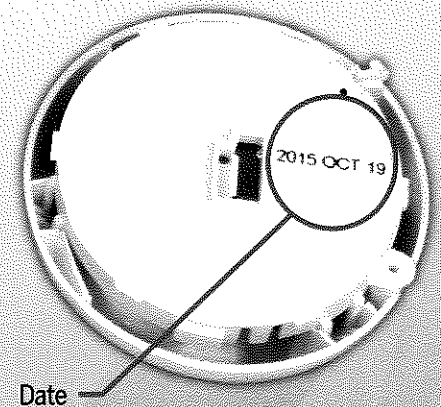
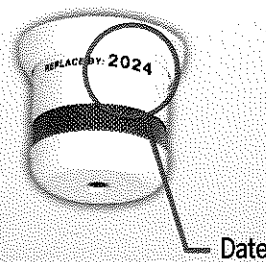
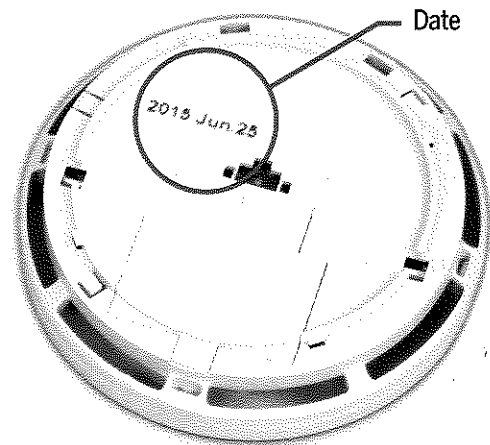
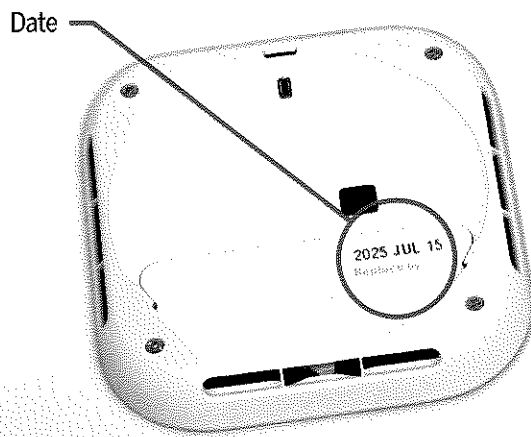
Every home needs working smoke alarms. Follow these tips for smoke alarm safety!

- ➔ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need additional alarms.
- ➔ When installing, follow the instructions that come with the smoke alarm.
- ➔ For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- ➔ It is especially important to have interconnected smoke alarms if you sleep with the doors closed.
- ➔ The two most common types of smoke alarm technologies are ionization and photoelectric. An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires.
- ➔ Both types of detection alarms or combination (photoelectric/ionization) alarms, also known as dual-sensor alarms, should be installed in the home.
- ➔ For people with profound hearing loss, install smoke alarms that have high intensity strobe lights. Vibration equipment – pillow or bed shakers – should be used to wake them from sleep. These devices are activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm.
- ➔ For people who are hard of hearing, a complex, low-frequency audible signal works best. Separate appliances are available that produce this signal.

Age matters when it comes to smoke alarms

# CHECK the date

Replace smoke alarms every 10 years



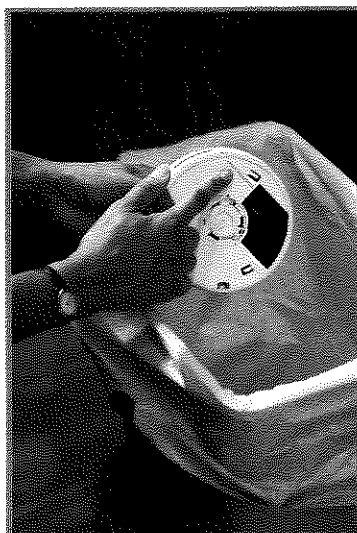
## THINK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN GETTING RID OF OLD SMOKE ALARMS

Look at the back of the smoke alarm to find out what type you have. In general:

Photoelectric smoke alarms are safe to put in the trash.

Ionization smoke alarms should not be put in the trash. They contain a small amount of radioactive material. Get in touch with the manufacturer to learn more about disposal options. You could also look for a hazardous materials disposal event or facility in your area.

The manufacturer can give you specific instructions about your smoke alarm. The name is printed on the back of the unit.



## BATTERIES

Some batteries cannot be thrown in the trash.

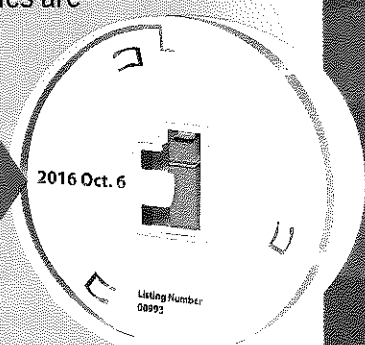
If your smoke alarm has sealed batteries, check with your local community for disposal options.

To be safe, cover the posts of 9V batteries with tape prior to disposal to avoid a short circuit. Electrical tape or masking tape can be used. This will prevent fire in case the posts accidentally come in contact with metal.



## FIRE FACTS

- ➔ Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported home fire in half.
- ➔ Three out of five home fire deaths are caused by fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- ➔ Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.
- ➔ When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead.



## SMOKE ALARM CARE

- ➔ Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- ➔ Always save the instructions that come with the alarms for testing and maintenance.
- ➔ Smoke alarms with non-replaceable batteries are made to work for up to 10 years. If the alarm "chirps," warning that the battery is low, replace the alarm with a new one.
- ➔ For smoke alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm "chirps," replace the battery right away.
- ➔ Age matters when it comes to smoke alarms. All smoke alarms need to be replaced when they are 10 years old or if they don't respond when tested.

Don't Wait — CHECK the date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years