



## Smoke Alarms in Your Home: A Matter of Life and Death

On average, seven people die in U.S. home fires per day. Children and older adults are most at risk, as they often need assistance and cannot escape by themselves in time.

Installing smoke alarms correctly - and making sure they are in working order - is key to being alerted to a fire and having time to get out. Establishing and rehearsing an escape route is another important step in keeping your family safe from fire.

Please carefully review this brochure's advice on maintaining smoke alarms. It also features tips on what to do when a smoke alarm sounds.

At Kern Medical, we are committed not just to wellness and healing, but to promoting safety measures that help keep you free from harm.

### OUR MISSION

Guided by the needs of our patients and their families, Kern Medical delivers safe, compassionate, high-quality care, and improves the health and well-being of our community.



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**safehome**  
SAFE BABY

# Preventing Home Fire Fatalities

IMPORTANT STEPS YOU CAN TAKE  
TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE





## Facts About Home Fire Deaths

- **Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.**, when most people are asleep and may not notice signs of fire.
- **About two thirds of home fire deaths happen in homes that don't have smoke alarms or working smoke alarms.** Dead batteries cause one quarter of smoke alarm failures.
- Children and older adults are **twice as likely** to die in a home fire.
- In reported home fires, working smoke alarms **decreased the risk of dying by half.**

SAFETY PRIORITY

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## Install Working Smoke Alarms

Installing smoke alarms correctly – **and making sure they are in working order** – is an important step to keeping your home and family safe from fire. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need additional smoke alarms.

## Maintaining Smoke Alarms

- Make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected – that way, when one sounds, they all sound!
- All smoke alarms must be tested at least once a month using the test button.
- Change smoke alarm batteries when you change your clock in the spring and fall.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years. Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

## Have an Escape Plan

- Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.
- Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year. Make sure to assign someone to assist infants and seniors in the event of an emergency.
- Ensure family members know two ways to escape from every room of your home.
- Make sure escape routes are clear of debris and doors and windows open easily.
- Plan a permanent meeting place, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox a safe distance from the home.

## When a Smoke Alarm Sounds

**Remember: If a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.**

- **Only professional firefighters should enter a building that is on fire** – even if other family members, pets or prized possessions are inside.
- If closed doors or handles are warm or smoke blocks your primary escape route, use your second way out. **Never open doors that are warm to the touch.**
- If you must escape through smoke, **get low and go under the smoke on your way out.**
- If your clothes should catch on fire, **STOP, DROP and ROLL.**
- Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. **Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.**



To receive additional smoke detectors or for assistance installing smoke detectors, please contact the Burn Foundation at (661) 833-2876.