

## *Caroline County Department of Fire-Rescue & Emergency Management*

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# Smoke Alarms Save Lives !

### **Do You Have Working Smoke Detectors?**

Do you have smoke detectors in your home or business? Smoke detectors have been proven to save lives because they are an early warning system. They sense smoke in the air usually before you notice a problem, whether it is from burning food on the stove or a trash can fire or the building itself being on fire.

It is suggested that there be a smoke detector at least on every level of your residence, the most important location being near the bedrooms. If there are smokers in the house, there should be a smoke detector inside of their bedroom, in case they fall asleep while smoking.

### **Are your smoke alarms working properly?**

Check smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button. Change the batteries in your smoke alarms twice a year – perhaps when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time (Spring and Fall). This applies to completely battery operated and hard wired – battery back-up alarms. **Do not remove the batteries to use the batteries in other toys or appliances.** Replace your smoke alarm if it is 10 years old or more.

### **Did You Know?**

- 82% of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces the chances of dying in a fire by nearly half.
- Nearly 1/3 of the residential fires and 2/5 of residential fatalities occur in homes with no smoke alarms.

**Commercial buildings and business locations have different requirements depending on the type of construction and the contents and type of business. Check with the County Building Official in the Planning Department.**

If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, please contact the Caroline County Department of Fire and Rescue at (804)633-9831 for more information.