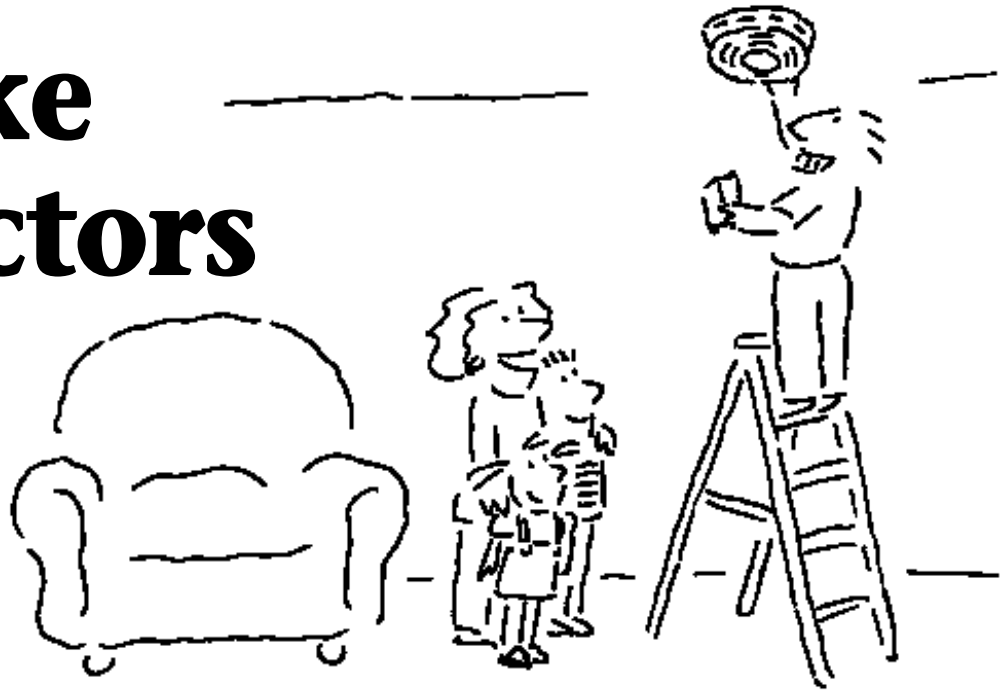


Smoke Detectors Save Lives



If there's one word you should always associate with smoke detectors, it's BATTERIES! A smoke detector with working batteries doubles your chances of surviving a fire. The devices are also inexpensive, convenient and easy to install, yet it's estimated that as many as half of the smoke detectors in U.S. homes don't work because of old or missing batteries.

Maintaining Your Best Fire Protection

Some models of smoke detectors are powered by the electrical current in the house rather than by batteries, but their wires can get disconnected or the circuit can short out. So all models need to be checked at least monthly. All smoke detectors made after Dec. 1, 1979, have an alarm test button that, when pressed, causes the horn to sound if the power is sufficient. Some models also make a chirping noise when their power is getting low. Don't try to test a detector by standing on some-

thing and blowing or wafting smoke into it or holding a lighted match up to it. The test button is a safer indication of the device's effectiveness.

Replace the batteries every six months but at least once a year, even if the warning device for weak batteries has not sounded. A good way to remember to change smoke detector batteries is to tie it in with turning back the clocks for the beginning of standard time every October. It's also important to keep the detector clean by vacuuming it, but don't remove its cover while doing so.

Where to Place Smoke Detectors

Place smoke detectors on the ceiling, at least 6 inches from walls and well away from vent screens. The most effective locations for smoke detectors are on every level of your home and in or near areas of fire or smoke danger: the basement, stairwells and hall-

ways near bedrooms. The more smoke detectors you install, the higher your level of protection. However, smoke detectors are not recommended for kitchens, bathrooms, garages, attics or near windows, doors, fireplaces or air

A smoke detector with working batteries doubles your chances of surviving a fire.

conditioners. You might experience too many false alarms.

If you do experience false alarms, perhaps from a smoking cigarette or burning toast, don't give in to the temptation to disconnect the smoke detector. You may forget to reconnect it later. Simply fanning the smoke away from the detector and increasing the ventilation of fresh air in the room will usually stop the alarm.