



## Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

A person can die from smoke inhalation in less than one minute. Most deaths occur when people are sleeping. Smoke numbs the senses and causes deeper sleep. For this reason, smoke detectors are your first and best protection in case of a fire.

Read the following statistics from the National Fire Protection Association.

- A 2004 telephone survey found that 96% of U.S. households had at least one smoke alarm, yet in 2000-2004, no smoke alarms were present or not operated in almost half (46%) of the reported home fires.
- An estimated 8900 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms.
- 65% of reported home fire deaths in 2000-2004 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- The fire death rate in homes with working smoke alarms is 51% less than the rate for homes without this protection.
- In one out of every five homes equipped with at least one smoke alarm installed, not a single one was working.
- Why do smoke alarms fail? Most often because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Nuisance activation's were the leading cause of disabled smoke alarms.

**Removing or Tampering with a smoke alarm is punishable under Oregon Law (ORS 479) with fines up to \$250 per occurrence.**

The ultimate responsibility for fire protection rest with the resident(s)!!

### **Alpine cares**

about your safety - so we have put together some information to help you understand fire protection and safety.

### **Child Safety**

Teach children how to respond in a fire.

When encountering a fire, most children get scared and are unsure of what to do. Many will try to hide in the closet, under a bed, or in some other hiding place, leaving them both trapped and vulnerable.

Teach your children the following skills. Make it fun and practice them on a regular basis.

- Never stop to take personal belongings or pets.
- Never go back into a burning building once safely outside
- Never use an elevator
- Never open a door if it is hot - find another exit.
- Never let your child play with matches or lighters. Children playing with matches are still the leading cause of fire related deaths and injuries for children under five.
- Always crawl under the smoke to safety, staying as low to the ground as possible (smoke always rises).
- Always locate the nearest stairway marked Fire Exit if they live in an apartment building or a fire escape if the stairway isn't accessible.
- Always touch the door (not the doorknob) to see if it is hot.
- Always cover their mouths and noses with a moist towel or an article of clothing to keep out dangerous fumes while evacuating.
- Always, STOP, DROP, and ROLL to extinguish flames if an article of clothing catches on fire.

### **Fire Safety Tips for Children**

Kids should also always be dressed for bed in flame-retardant sleepwear. Many manufacturers make fire retardant clothing for toddlers and small children. If possible, try to dress your child in this kind of sleepwear.

Practice dialing 911 with young children. Rehearse what they should say in an emergency. Teach them if there is a big fire, to leave the house immediately and only dial 911 after they are safe.

Practice fire drills at home. Fires are frightening and can cause panic for both adults and children. By rehearsing different fire escape scenarios, your children will be better prepared and able to respond accordingly. Discuss and rehearse the escape routes you've planned for each room of your home.

Have a predetermined meeting place. Designate a meeting place outside your house or apartment building that is a safe distance away, here everyone can be accounted for after they escape. Make it an object that is unlikely to be moved such as a tree, mailbox, fence, or light post.

Test your plan. Every month or so, set off the smoke detector and let everyone know it's time for a fire drill. See if everyone can evacuate your home and gather at the designated meeting place in 3 minutes, which is the time it can take for an entire house to go up in flames.

Teach your kids the sound of the smoke alarm. Kids need to become familiar enough with this sound so they instinctively react to it instead of hide from it.

Being prepared is the best way to protect your family from a fire. Make sure your kids know what to do in a fire. A few minutes of planning now may save lives later on.