



RUSSELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Smoke Alarm Information



Smoke Alarms:

1. It is the LAW in Ontario that all homes must have a working smoke alarm on each level and outside all designated sleeping areas. Homes that fail to comply with the requirements of the fire code can be subject to a fine. Over a recent three year period, an analysis was undertaken of people that died in homes where smoke alarms were present but did not work. 85% of those victims did not have a functioning smoke alarm because of a dead or missing battery/power source.
2. There are 2 types of smoke alarm; Ionization & Photoelectric. However quantity and placement is more important than type;
Ionization: Slightly better at detecting fast burning fires.
Photoelectric: Slightly better at detecting smoldering fires. Good choice for rooms near kitchens where nuisance alarms can be a problem.
Combination ionization / photoelectric units are also available.
3. Regardless of type, all detectors must be tested by "Underwriters Laboratories Inc" look for the following symbols to ensure this;



4. Smoke alarms have a 10 year life span, manufacturers recommend that they be replaced after 10 years.
5. Change batteries twice a year / test & clean monthly.
6. Do not place in bathrooms or extremely dusty areas. If an alarm keeps going off unnecessarily it could be a matter of placing it in a different area or the unit itself may need to be replaced. Look for models with a "Hush" button to reduce nuisance alarms.

**If you have any questions related to fire safety or prevention, please contact:
The Russell Fire Department at; (613) 445-3326.**