

Fire Department -- Smoke Detectors

Smoke from fire kills. Most fire victims typically die from smoke inhalation before the flames ever reach them. Most tragic home fires occur between 2 AM and 6 AM when you are sleeping. Many people believe they will wake up if there is a fire in their home; unfortunately this is false. The toxic gasses produced by a fire actually put people into a deeper sleep.

How Many Smoke Detectors?

The National Fire Protection Association and the Ottawa Fire Department recommend installing smoke detectors:

- On each level of your home
- In every bedroom
- In corridors and hallways outside your bedrooms
- Above stairwells

Every home should have at least two smoke detectors.

Where Should Smoke Detectors Be Installed?

For best performance, follow these installation guidelines:

- Mount smoke detectors in the middle of the ceiling if possible. If not, mount them on the wall at least three feet from any corner and six inches from the ceiling.
- Do not install smoke alarms where drafts from fans or air ducts could blow smoke away from the alarm's sensor.
- To avoid "nuisance alarms" keep smoke detectors at least ten feet from stoves and showers.

The Ottawa Fire Department can advise you on the proper location of your smoke alarms and will also assist with the installation of smoke detectors you provide. The Ottawa Fire Department can also give you smoke detectors if you live in Franklin County.

Caring For Your Smoke Detectors is Simple.

The main reason for smoke detectors not working is dead or missing batteries.

- Test your smoke detectors every week.
- Replace the batteries every six months. Change the batteries when you change your clocks.
- Vacuum the outside cover regularly to remove dust.
- Replace you smoke detectors every ten years.