

Smoke Detectors, Have You Tested Yours Lately?

By Capt. Tim Bergeron



No time to check your smoke detectors? No time to replace the batteries? It takes less than five minutes. Buy and install new batteries, push the smoke detector's test button – that's it! Put it on the calendar – replace the batteries and test the alarm twice a year. What's in it for you? Think big picture – what's in it for your friends and family? YOU!

Did you know?

- Fires that occur at night while the victims are asleep generate the majority of fire deaths and injuries.
- Households with non-working smoke detectors now outnumber those with no smoke detectors. Do your smoke detectors work? Are you sure? When was the last time you tested them?
- Smoke detectors, when properly installed, give an early audible warning needed to safely escape from fire. 85% of all fire deaths occur in the home, and the majority occur at night when most people are sleeping.
- Smoke created by fire contains a deadly gas (carbon monoxide). You can't see it, taste it or smell it. As you breathe, while sleeping, the carbon monoxide puts you into a deeper sleep. Unless the smoke irritates your nostrils as you breathe, you may continue to sleep until you become a victim. A smoke detector, when properly installed, will give you an early audible warning – you'll wake up and safely escape from the fire.
- If one of your smoke detectors is over ten years old, consider replacing it. Failure rates of smoke detectors increase after ten years of use. Newer smoke alarms do better, but should be replaced after ten years.

Do smoke detectors need maintenance?

Yes!

Remember 1 - 1 - 6 - 10.

1 - Once a week test the alarm by pressing the test button.

1 - Once a year replace the battery, or when the low battery alarm chirps, if it is less than one year.

6 - Every six months vacuum the inside of the alarm to remove dust from the sensor.

10 - After ten years replace the smoke detector.

Installation of Smoke Detectors:

How many and where?

Smoke detectors should be placed on each level of the home (including the basement) and outside each sleeping area. Detectors should be mounted on the wall 4-12 inches from the ceiling; ceiling-mounted detectors should be positioned four inches away from the nearest wall. For vaulted ceilings, mount the alarm at the highest point of the ceiling.

Carbon Monoxide, The Silent Killer.

You can't see it, smell it or taste it.

Where does it come from?

Carbon monoxide is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, wood, or kerosene is burned. Carbon monoxide enters the home when any of these appliances are not working and/or venting correctly. For example; a chimney or vent may have become blocked, the heat exchanger in your furnace or boiler may have cracked.

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that robs your body of oxygen. The symptoms can easily be confused with the flu. In fact, the highest incidence of carbon monoxide poisoning occurs during flu season. High concentrations of carbon monoxide can lead to unconsciousness, brain damage or death.

You may experience some or none of these symptoms: headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, shortness of breath, weakness, vision problems or loss of muscle control. You should also suspect carbon monoxide poisoning if symptoms disappear when you leave your home.

What should you do if you suspect carbon monoxide is in your home?

- Get out of the house and get fresh air.
- Call 911, the fire department can check your home for carbon monoxide levels.
- Vent your home by opening the windows and doors.

How can you protect yourself against carbon monoxide poisoning?

- Have your heating system and appliances inspected and serviced each year by a licensed professional.
- Have a qualified professional inspect your chimney and appliance vents for any blockage.
- Ensure your home is ventilated.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in every level of your home, especially your bedrooms.

Birthdays



January

4th	Bill Hyde
5th	Matt Bush
10th	Chad Miller
17th	John Presley
25th	Jerry Lund
26th	Reety Radke
31st	Mark Soppe

February

10th	Neil Roe
	Rob Gonia
15th	Scott Jensen
16th	Nick Mladenoff
24th	Sean Laurent



Total Calls for 2011

2429



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