

# Spokane County Fire District 8

## Home Safety Survey and Smoke Alarm Program



Smoke alarms are inexpensive life safety devices designed to be the first line of defense in helping families safely escape a residential fire. **Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.** At SCFD8, we want you to be aware of the value of having working smoke alarms in your home. That's why we are available to check smoke alarms in your home for proper operation, identify appropriate mounting locations, assist with installation, and complete a home safety survey – **all at no charge.**

*NOTE: To qualify for a free smoke alarm, you must be a resident of Spokane County Fire District 8.*

*NOTE: A limited number of smoke alarms are available to District residents.*

For more information, or to request a **Home Safety Survey**, please call SCFD8 at 509-926-6699 Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or email your request along with your name and address to [admin@scfd8.org](mailto:admin@scfd8.org).

*SCFD8 does not supply smoke alarms to apartments or rental properties.*

### **During your home visit, you will receive:**

- ✓ Installation of smoke alarm/s if there are no working smoke alarms present in your home;
- ✓ Guidance in the development of a [Family Disaster Plan](#);
- ✓ Valuable emergency preparedness tips;
- ✓ A demonstration of some simple changes to your home that will help protect your family against fire and injury.

### **Smoke Alarm Basics:**

- ★ Every home needs working smoke alarms.
- ★ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home, including your basement. Larger homes may need additional alarms.
- ★ For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home so that when one sounds, they all sound.

- ★ It is especially important to have interconnected smoke alarms if you sleep with the doors closed.
- ★ Two of the best known types of smoke alarm technologies are the ionization smoke alarm and the photoelectric smoke alarm.
  - An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fire.
  - A photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires.
  - For best protection, both types of detection alarms, or a combination alarm (dual sensor alarm), should be installed in the home.
- ★ People with profound hearing loss should have smoke alarms with high intensity strobe lights. Vibration equipment, such as pillow or bed shakers, is required and is activated by the sound of the alarm.
- ★ A complex, low frequency audible signal works best for people who are hard of hearing. Separate appliances are available that produce this signal.
- ★ When installing, follow the instructions that come with the alarm.
- ★ More information is available on the [NFPA website](#).

#### **Fire Facts:**

- ★ Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.
- ★ Three out of five home fire deaths happen from fire in homes without smoke alarms or that have no working smoke alarm.
- ★ When a smoke alarm fails to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead.
- ★ Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am, when most people are asleep.

#### **Smoke Alarm Care:**

- ★ Test your smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- ★ Always save the instructions that come with the alarm for testing and maintenance.
- ★ Smoke alarms with non-replaceable batteries are made to work for ten years. If the alarms “chirps”, replace the alarm with a new one.
- ★ Replace the batteries at least once a year on smoke alarms with any other type of battery. If the alarm “chirps”, replace the battery right away.