



# City of Petoskey

Department of Public Safety

101 East Lake Street, Petoskey, Michigan 49770 • 231 347-2500 • Fax 231 347-2471

## Free Smoke Alarm Program

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms in the home are considered one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire. **Smoke alarms save lives**, prevent injuries, and minimize property damage by enabling residents to detect fires early in their development. In fact, the risk of dying from fires in homes without smoke alarms is approximately twice as high as in homes that have working smoke alarms.

This simple, yet effective tool has proven to save lives. The Department of Public Safety is sponsoring this program in an effort to increase safety within our city. The program targets privately-owned households with a special emphasis on single parents and senior citizens. To receive a smoke alarm or for additional information contact the Department of Public Safety at 347-2500 or [www.ci.petoskey.mi.us](http://www.ci.petoskey.mi.us)

## Smoke Alarm Installation and Maintenance Tips

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, making sure that there is an alarm outside every separate sleeping area. New homes are required to have a smoke alarm in every sleeping room and all smoke alarms must be interconnected.

Hard-wired smoke alarms operate on your household electrical current. They can be interconnected so that every alarm sounds regardless of the fire's location. This is the advantage in early warning, because it gives occupants extra time to escape if they are in one part of the home and fire breaks out in another part. Alarms that are hard-wired should have battery backups in case of a power outage, and should be installed by qualified electricians.

If you sleep with bedroom doors closed, have a qualified electrician install interconnected smoke alarms in each room so that when one alarm sounds, they all sound.

If you or someone in your home is deaf or hard of hearing, consider installing an alarm that combines flashing lights, vibration and or sound.

Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings (remember smoke rises). Ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall. Wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.

If you have ceilings that are pitched, install the alarm near the ceiling's highest point.

Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.

Never paint smoke alarms. Paint, stickers, or other decorations could keep the smoke alarms from working.

## Smoke Alarm Safety Tips

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) should be installed in homes.

Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.

Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.

Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps", warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.

Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

Smoke alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.

If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a "hush" button. A "hush" button will reduce the smoke alarm's sensitivity for a short period of time.

An ionization alarm with a hush button or a photoelectric alarm should be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance.

Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.

Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These devices use strobe lights. Vibration devices can be added to these alarms.

Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.

