

WIRELESS SMOKE DETECTORS

New technology that will greatly improve the fire safety of your home

A common misconception occurs when a person awakens and realizes that the smoke detector is making noise. They assume that the detector just began to make noise, and the detector operated as soon as the smoke began. If the home has battery powered smoke detectors (without interconnected) however, the fire may have been burning for a considerable time, and they have just awakened to that fact. The smoke has traveled to finally reach the detector nearest their bed. There may be little or no time to escape.

If the detector in the basement activates, it is unlikely that the noise will be sufficient to wake a person asleep on the second floor. The smoke may have to travel and activate the second floor detector before getting the sleeping person's attention. Now awake, there is little time to alert the family and get everyone out safely.

In order to reduce this risk, a wireless "interconnected" detector in the basement will transmit a signal to all smoke detectors to make noise. At the moment the basement detector senses smoke, the smoke detector in the bedroom makes noise. This offers the occupants the greatest amount of time to escape.

Wireless smoke detectors are battery powered and install like regular battery powered smoke detectors. They transmit signals to other detectors and don't require wires. With smoke detectors on each level and in each bedroom they form an effective fire alarm system that meets 2007 National Fire Protection Association requirements. Additional detectors are recommended in each separate room in the basement and the garage.

Can you hear the smoke detectors making noise from anywhere in your home? Do you have enough detectors to provide sufficient coverage and early warning?

1. Additional wireless smoke detectors can be added at any time.
2. Wireless detectors can transmit up to 200'. They offer the ability to include out buildings and detached garages into a home fire alarm system.
3. Wireless detectors are ideal for older homes that do not have hardwired detectors.

All new home construction, since the mid-1990's, requires hard wired battery backup smoke alarms in all residential dwellings. If your home was built prior to that, you more than likely have traditional single stage smoke alarms.

If you live in a home built prior to the mid-1990's please consider upgrading your single stage smoke alarms to the wireless interconnected smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are currently required to be located in the following locations - one on each floor of the home, hallways adjacent to sleeping rooms and in every bedroom.