AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Citations And Penalties For Violations
   a. Last meeting we had a presentation from Daniel Pitts, Compliance Manager, Region 6, DOSH. The group had a question regarding the wording on the L & I Website when looking up a contractor’s compliance inspection history. The list did say “Citation Issue Date:” even though there were no violations. Dan put in a request and the change was made to read “Inspection Results Date:”.
      i. Highlighted below are the steps to get to the Verify A Contractor section to look up your L & I compliance inspection history.

3. Article – AGC of America: 13 PROVEN STEPS TO IMPROVE CONSTRUCTION WORKER SAFETY
   a. Reviewed and discussed Items for New Employees, Ongoing Training and Operating Procedures
   b. Learn more:

4. Training
   a. AGC is putting together safety training for the Pullman/Lewiston area. M.A. DeAtley has generously provided some space for this to occur. Contact Lukas Witkowski at AGC Spokane for more information and types of training needs for the area.
   b. Safety Fest Is Coming – Free Training
      i. Safety Fest is an affordable (free) safety and health training event for the education of the surrounding region’s front line workers, supervisors, and managers of all levels. Safety Fest is an effort to increase awareness of and reduce the hazards presently causing injuries, fatalities, and illness.
   c. SafetyFest - 2015
      i. Billings, Montana – November 16-20
         1. Link: http://safetyfestmt.com/
   d. SafetyFest – 2016
      i. Post Falls – February 17-19 – Registration open in January.
   e. Safety Training – Help Wanted!
      i. AGC Spokane and Tri-Cities is looking for instructors to teach some of the safety curriculum to include OSHA 10 and 30, Basic First Aid/CPR.
      ii. If you know of someone who may be interested, Contact Mary Tantriella at AGC – 509-535-0391
5. Safety Equipment
   a. Safety Recall – MSA Workman 30’ and 50’ SRL
      i. MSA issued the attached User Notices regarding Workman 30’ and 50’ self-retracting lanyards (SRLs) manufactured between January 2015 and August 2015.
      ii. Link: http://us.msasafety.com/productSafety;jsessionid=BD1FD13812675908921BBF0061A5721E.woker1

6. Events
   a. Fall Back – Home Events Besides Setting The Clocks Back
      i. Replace batteries in smoke and CO2 detectors.
      ii. Check status and condition of smoke and CO2 detectors.
      iii. Educate family, friends and workers about the importance of equipment maintenance.
      iv. Articles Attached:
         2. Smoke Alarms Can Save Your Life – CPSC Publication 557
         3. Change Your Clock Change Your Battery – Energizer Bunny
      v. Links:
   b. Construction Career Days – a huge success!! Thanks to all who contributed.
      i. Go to: #spokaneccd2015 for pictures and videos posted by kids.

7. Open Discussions –
13 PROVEN STEPS TO IMPROVE CONSTRUCTION WORKER SAFETY

NEW EMPLOYEES

1. Establish a buddy system for all new hires:
   - During orientation assign experienced workers to serve as a new hire’s safety sponsor.
   - After 30 days the sponsor and supervisor evaluate new hire’s application of training and understanding of how to perform assigned tasks safely
   - Both must sign off that worker is ready to work safely without a buddy or the buddy process continues until the new worker has proven they can work safely.

2. Hold safety orientation sessions for all new hires, including temporary workers:
   - Require every new hire - whether full time, permanent, part time, temporary, and/or labor-firm staff, to complete a safety orientation system before being allowed to work on a project. This orientation should be separate and independent from the general administrative orientation.
   - The orientation system includes photos depicting common and not-so-common (lightning, weather) hazards on projects that trainees are quizzed to recognize.
   - The orientation includes interactive hazard recognition and group discussion on controls.
   - The orientation process covers company policies, procedures, and principles covering work rules and conduct.
   - The orientation includes a verification of competency in the skill or craft the employee was hired to perform.

ONGOING TRAINING

3. Ensure managers and supervisors have the appropriate Leadership and Effective Communication skills critical to instill safety culture and concepts into the workforce.
   - All personnel in supervisory or managerial positions shall complete initial management training so they can learn effective leadership and communication skills. This training and continuing leadership education should be an essential element of individual development plans for those in leadership positions.
   - These skills are essential to getting workers to embrace an effective safety culture, including grasping and implementing appropriate safety concepts and procedures.

4. Institute two separate Pre-Task Hazard Analysis training programs.
   - Create distinct pre-task hazard analysis training programs; one for the crew and one specifically designed for 1st line supervision.
   - These programs will help workers operate safely.
   - These programs will train supervisors to effectively fulfill their obligation to ensure workers are operating safely at all times.
5. **Hold monthly Lunch and Learn safety training programs.**
   - Organize and host monthly safety lunch and learns.
   - Include 30-minute presentations from craft workers on pre-determined safety topics.
   - Workers learn from their peers, (not from supervisors); an effective means to acquire skills.

6. **Require All Foremen and/or Superintendents to attend Leadership in Safety Excellence certification courses.**
   - Project leaders such as foremen and superintendents are critical to the success of the day-to-day performance and implementation of a company’s safety program.
   - Providing them with the necessary skills to effectively communicate the mission is key to this success.

7. **Hold Targeted Safety Training to Address All Safety Incidents.**
   - Identify safety incidents and details.
   - Quickly follow up by communicating targeted messages designed to address specific safety hazards involved to avoid similar future incidents. The message can be communicated in bulletins, e-mail, team meetings, formal training, or other appropriate forums.

8. **Make Sure All Training and Materials are in the Language of the entire Workforce**
   - Workforces may include workers with limited English skills.
   - Offer safety training in English and other languages as the need arises, to ensure understanding by all workers.

9. **Train Your Trainers.**
   - Training others requires effective communication and training skills.
   - Provide “Train the Trainer” instruction to all personnel responsible for training others.
   - Training the Trainer will help improve the effectiveness of the safety training provided.
   - Retaining “science of teaching” consultants to train the trainers on basic instructional skills and/or retained to develop a program implemented in-house can greatly improve the Train the Trainer programs.
   - Professional trainer certification and credentialing through OSHA and BCSP ensure adequate rigor in Trainer education.

**OPERATING PROCEDURES**

10. **Create worker task-specific “pocket safety guides” for every task they are assigned.**
    - Laborers may get just one guide for the scope of their task; others, such as equipment operators, may get several pocket guides.
    - Guides must be kept on their person and produced upon request by supervisor.
    - Workers are required to verbally explain the safe way to do their key assigned tasks.
    - During morning meetings workers are called upon to lead the meeting using their pocket guide.
11. **Establish craft-specific safety mentoring programs.**
   - Schedule monthly mentorship meetings where crafts of varying tenure meet to help each other understand and discuss safety-related procedures, processes, and lessons learned.
   - At the end of these meetings, the craft workers will summarize the results and share them with senior management to identify areas that may require additional focus.

12. **Issue easy-to-read badges to all workers indicated their level of training.**
   - Issue easy-to-read badges (for example, badges that use QR codes or color coding) that identify each worker’s level of training and certification for operating equipment.
   - Badges are issued to every worker on a project, regardless of whether they work for a GC or a subcontractor.
   - Badges allow everyone on a project to be aware of every worker’s training and certification level so they can be assigned appropriate tasks.

13. **Authorize all workers to issue Stop Work Cards to address safety risks.**
   - Issue every worker a “Stop Work Card”.
   - Instruct every worker that they can use their “Stop Work Cards” to temporarily halt construction activity on a project if they identify a legitimate safety hazard.
   - Make it clear to all workers there are no repercussions for using the “Stop Work Cards.”

For more information, please contact Kevin Cannon, Senior Director, AGC Safety and Health Services, at (703)837-5410 or cannonk@agc.org.
Dear MSA Fall Protection Customer,

MSA is issuing this User Safety Notice due to a potential safety issue involving 30 ft. / 9 m. Workman SRLs. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause.

We have determined that a small percentage of Workman 30 ft. / 9 m. SRLs manufactured from January through August of 2015 may have an improper brake nut torque setting. This condition is not detectable when performing the normal pre-use inspection procedure. SRLs with this condition may not arrest a user’s fall or may not arrest it within the specified maximum arrest distance.

There have been no reports of incidents attributed to this condition, but we ask for your immediate assistance in allowing us to replace all affected SRLs. Please contact MSA as indicated below to schedule the replacement.

Continued use of SRLs within this date range is also possible on a temporary basis provided they pass a one-time special inspection. They must also meet all normal inspection requirements laid out in the user instructions. Since the long term impact of this condition could result in degradation of performance that is not detectable by the user, it is important that you remove these units from service sometime over the next several months, but no later than April 30, 2016. Please contact MSA if you would like more information on this special inspection.

To identify affected 30 ft. / 9 m. Workman SRLs, check the label affixed to the unit. Affected SRLs have one of the following “model” numbers and the “date made” is from 01-2015 through 08-2015:

| 10119507 | 10127535 | 10154677 |
| 10120722 | 10127536 | 10160717 |
| 10120723 | 10143843 | 10163875 |
| 10120724 | 10144628 | 10164292 |
| 10126173 | 10146094 | 10164297 |
| 10126174 | 10154676 |

No other SRL models or dates of manufacture are affected by this notice.
Replacing Affected SRLs:

To obtain replacement SRLs for affected units, please complete the attached order form and email it to MSA Customer Service at the address indicated below. You will need to identify on the order form the model number and serial number of the SRLs that you are replacing. MSA will immediately ship the replacement SRLs to you free of charge.

It is important that you immediately mark all affected SRLs “UNUSABLE” and then discard or return them to MSA, unless they pass the special inspection. SRLs that pass the special inspection may be used until April 30, 2016, but then must be marked “UNUSABLE” and discarded or returned to MSA. Please cut the cable on any SRLs that are discarded to ensure that they cannot be used.

Please note that the replacement SRLs may also have a “date made” from 01-2015 through 08-2015, but include yellow tamper evident paint on the exterior housing screw heads near the handle, as shown in the photo below. These SRLs are new units that were factory upgraded to include a new brake assembly and are acceptable for use.

MSA Customer Service Contact Information:

As indicated above or if you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service using the appropriate contact information below:

- U.S., Canada, or U.S. Territories – 1-866-672-0005 or by email at: ProductSafetyNotices@MSAsafety.com.
- Outside the U.S., Canada, and U.S. Territories – 724-776-8626 or by email at: LAMZonecs@MSAnet.com.

Again, we apologize for any inconvenience that this situation may cause; however, your safety and continued satisfaction with our products is most important to us.

Best regards,

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.
Manager of Product Safety
Order Form for Replacement 30 ft. / 9 m. Workman® SRLs

Please complete this form and email this form to MSA Customer Service at:
  • U.S., Canada, or U.S. Territories – ProductSafetyNotices@MSAsafety.com
  • Outside the U.S., Canada, and U.S. Territories – LAMZonecs@MSAnet.com
Multiple orders can be placed by submitting additional copies of this form.

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________

Shipping Address: ___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Phone: _______________________ E-Mail:_______________________________________________

Dealer that you purchased SRLs from: ________________________________________________

Identify each of your 30 ft. / 9 m. Workman SRL that you need replaced:

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Please check one of the following: ______ I agree to discard the SRLs listed above, or ______ I agree to return the SRLs listed above to MSA. If returning units, MSA will send instructions for free shipping.

MSA Use Only - Order Code: WR2 2015 Workman SRL; Return Code: WRR RE: 2015 Workman SRL PS15031-20
Dear MSA Fall Protection Customer,

MSA is issuing this User Safety Notice due to a potential safety issue involving 50 ft. / 15 m. Workman SRLs. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause.

We have determined that a small percentage of Workman 50 ft. / 15 m. SRLs manufactured from January through August of 2015 may have an improper brake nut torque setting. This condition is not detectable when performing the normal pre-use inspection procedure. SRLs with this condition may not arrest a user’s fall or may not arrest it within the specified maximum arrest distance.

There have been no reports of incidents attributed to this condition, but we ask for your immediate assistance in allowing us to replace all affected SRLs. Please contact MSA as indicated below to schedule the replacement.

Continued use of SRLs within this date range is also possible provided they pass a one-time special inspection. They must also meet all normal inspection requirements laid out in the user instructions. Please contact MSA if you would like more information on this special inspection.

To identify affected 50 ft. / 15 m. Workman SRLs, check the label affixed to the unit. Affected SRLs have one of the following “model” numbers and the “date made” is from 01-2015 through 08-2015:

10121776    10127258    10154679  
10121777    10144629    10160718  
10121778    10143844    10163876  
10121834    10146096    10164293  
10127257    10154678

No other SRL models or dates of manufacture are affected by this notice.
Replacing Affected SRLs:

To obtain replacement SRLs for affected units, please complete the attached order form and email it to MSA Customer Service at the address indicated below. You will need to identify on the order form the model number and serial number of the SRLs that you are replacing. MSA will immediately ship the replacement SRLs to you free of charge.

It is important that you immediately mark all affected SRLs “UNUSABLE” and then discard or return them to MSA, unless they pass the special inspection. SRLs that pass the special inspection are acceptable for continued use. Please cut the cable on any SRLs that are discarded to ensure that they cannot be used.

Please note that the replacement SRLs may also have a “date made” from 01-2015 through 08-2015, but include yellow tamper evident paint on the exterior housing screw heads near the handle, as shown in the photo below. These SRLs are new units that were factory upgraded to include a new brake assembly and are acceptable for use.

![Yellow Tamper Evident Paint](image)

MSA Customer Service Contact Information:

As indicated above or if you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service using the appropriate contact information below:

- U.S., Canada, or U.S. Territories – 1-866-672-0005 or by email at: [ProductSafetyNotices@MSAsafety.com](mailto:ProductSafetyNotices@MSAsafety.com).
- Outside the U.S., Canada, and U.S. Territories – 724-776-8626 or by email at: [LAMZonecs@MSAnet.com](mailto:LAMZonecs@MSAnet.com).

Again, we apologize for any inconvenience that this situation may cause; however, your safety and continued satisfaction with our products is most important to us.

Best regards,

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.
Manager of Product Safety

PS15031-23
Order Form for Replacement 50 ft. / 15 m. Workman® SRLs

Please complete this form and email this form to MSA Customer Service at:
• U.S., Canada, or U.S. Territories – ProductSafetyNotices@MSAsafety.com
• Outside the U.S., Canada, and U.S. Territories – LAMZonecs@MSAnet.com

Multiple orders can be placed by submitting additional copies of this form.

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________

Shipping Address: ___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Phone: _______________________ E-Mail:_______________________________________________

Dealer that you purchased SRLs from: _________________________________________________

Identify each of your 50 ft. / 15 m. Workman SRL that you need replaced:

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Please check one of the following: ______ I agree to discard the SRLs listed above, or ______ I agree to return the SRLs listed above to MSA. If returning units, MSA will send instructions for free shipping.

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A smoke alarm is critical for the early detection of a fire in your home and could mean the difference between life and death. Fires can occur in a variety of ways and in any room of your home. But no matter where or how, having a smoke alarm is the first key step towards your family's safety.

This document is not intended to be all inclusive, but it is intended to inform the reader about some of the safety aspects and importance of having and maintaining working smoke alarms.

**Why are Smoke Alarms Important?**

Every year in the United States, about 3,000 people lose their lives in residential fires. In a fire, smoke and deadly gases tend to spread farther and faster than heat. That's one reason why most fire victims die from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases, not as a result of burns. A majority of fatal fires happen when families are asleep because occupants are unaware of the fire until there is not adequate time to escape. A smoke alarm stands guard around the clock and, when it first senses smoke, it sounds a shrill alarm. This often allows a family the precious but limited time it takes to escape.

About two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms are considered to be one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire and could reduce the risk of dying from a fire in your home by almost half.

**Where Should Smoke Alarms be Installed?**

Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms

A smoke alarm should be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer’s instructions. When installing a smoke alarm, many factors influence where you will place it, including how many are to be installed. Consider placing alarms along your escape path to assist in egress in limited visibility conditions. In general you should place alarms in the center of a ceiling or, if you place them on a wall, they should be 6 to 12 inches below the ceiling.
CPSC staff recommends the following:

- Install a working smoke alarm on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least annually, such as when resetting clocks in the fall or spring.
- Test all smoke alarms in your house once a month.
- Do not place a smoke alarm too close to a kitchen appliance or fireplace, as this may result in nuisance alarms.
- Avoid locating alarms near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows, or ceiling fans.
- Replace smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old. Smoke alarms don’t last forever.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan, because working smoke alarms and a fire escape plan will increase your protection in case of a fire.

Which Smoke Alarm Type is Better?

Although there are several choices to make in selecting the right smoke alarms to buy, the most important thing to remember is that smoke alarms save lives. For that reason, you should install a smoke alarm if your home does not have one.

Smoke alarms may contain different or multiple sensors

There are two main types of smoke alarms, which are categorized by the type of smoke detection sensor, ionization and photoelectric, used in the alarm. A smoke alarm uses one or both methods, sometimes with a heat detector, to warn of a fire.

Ionization detectors contain a chamber with two plates that generate a small, continuous electric current. When smoke enters the ionization chamber, the smoke particles disrupt the current flow, which triggers the alarm.

Photoelectric detectors use a light beam and light receptor (photocell). When smoke is present between the light and receptor, depending on the type of smoke chamber configuration, the reduction or increase of light on the photocell sensor triggers the alarm.

Smoke alarms may perform differently

Both ionization and photoelectric detectors are effective smoke sensors. Even though both types of smoke detectors must pass the same tests to be certified to the voluntary standard for smoke alarms, they can perform differently in different types of fires. Ionization detectors respond quickly to flaming fires with smaller combustion particles; photoelectric detectors respond more quickly to smoldering fires. There are combination smoke alarms also that combine ionization and photoelectric detectors into one unit, called dual sensor smoke alarms.
The amount of time a person may have to escape depends on many factors, such as the type of fire, location of the fire, and the closest smoke alarm.

**Smoke Alarm Sounds**
Do not waste any time saving property.
The fire has already developed and the closest smoke alarm has detected the smoke.

**Escaping**
It may be smoky: getting low may make it easier to breathe and see. Smoke contains toxic gases which can disorient you or, at worst, overcome you.
The time it takes to get out depends on many factors including mobility, helping others, escape route, time of day, smoke, fire, and the location of the fire relative to you.

**Exiting the Home**
Once you are out of the home, never re-enter the home. **ONCE OUT – STAY OUT!**

The type of fire, slow smoldering or fast flaming, can determine the amount of time you have to escape before being overcome by smoke, heat, and toxic gases. A slow smoldering fire may go undetected for a long period of time before it erupts into dangerous flames and high heat. A fast flaming fire has a very short amount of time before flames and heat become intense. In either type of fire, once out – stay out

**Fast Moving Flaming Fire**
Fast flaming fires don’t leave much time for escape. An ionization smoke alarm may be seconds faster than a photoelectric smoke alarm, and those seconds will count in a fast moving flaming fire.

In a flaming fire, the CPSC staff recommends:

- A fire escape plan will help reduce the amount of escape time required for you and your family to get out safely.
- These types of fires can develop rapidly; leave the home as fast as possible because the flames, heat, and toxic gases will become too intense in a short time.
- If your primary escape path is blocked by smoke, flames, and heat, use your secondary escape method, such as an alternative door or window.
**Smoldering Fire**
Smoldering fires develop slowly. A photoelectric smoke alarm can be minutes faster than an ionization smoke alarm in responding to a smoldering fire. Regardless of the type of smoke alarm, as soon as the smoke alarm sounds, leave the home as fast as possible.

In a smoldering fire, the CPSC staff recommends:

- A fire escape plan will help reduce the amount of escape time required for you and your family to get out safely.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, leave the home as fast as possible; it is unpredictable when the smoldering fire may burst into a flaming fire.
- These types of fires produce a lot of smoke; getting low may make it easier to breathe and see. The smoke contains toxic gases which can disorient you or, at worst, overcome you.
- If your primary escape path is blocked by smoke, flames, and heat, use your secondary escape method, such as alternative door or window.

**What Features Come on Smoke Alarms?**

In addition to the type of smoke detection sensor, ionization and photoelectric, used in the alarm, smoke alarms can be powered differently or be interconnected or single station alarms. Considering all of the available options will enable you to select the smoke alarms that may work best in your situation to effectively detect a fire.

**Power**

Smoke alarms can be connected to the home’s wiring system, battery powered, or a combination of both. Smoke alarms most often fail to alarm because of missing, drained, or disconnected batteries. A good reminder to replace the batteries in smoke alarms is in the fall or spring when resetting the clocks.

For older homes, battery-only smoke alarms are the simplest to install. For homes under construction, smoke alarms are typically connected to the household wiring (hard-wired). Smoke alarms connected to household wiring with battery back-up will provide protection even during power outages. Consider upgrading smoke alarms to hard-wired with battery back-up during a renovation or remodeling project.

If your smoke alarm begins to chirp, signaling low battery power, replace the batteries immediately to prevent you and your family from being unprotected. Also make sure that everyone in the house understands how important it is to have working batteries in every smoke alarm and how dangerous it is to remove the batteries even for a short time. Smoke alarms with sealed lithium batteries can last up to 10 years; after 10 years, the entire unit is disposable.
Interconnection

Interconnected smoke alarms may provide improved protection and offer more escape time in a fire. This type of smoke alarm allows all smoke alarms to sound if one has detected smoke. With interconnected smoke alarms, a fire in the basement, for example, will trigger the closest smoke alarm and alert all the occupants in the home by sounding all the smoke alarms. Not all homes have interconnected smoke alarms. Prior to 1989, existing homes typically had independent single-station, battery-only-powered smoke alarms. After 1989, new homes included hard-wired, interconnected smoke alarms.

Interconnected smoke alarms are typically connected using a wire, but newer wireless technology is available that allows smoke alarms to be interconnected without using wires. This allows easier and less costly upgrade to interconnected smoke alarms for older homes. Not all homes may need interconnected smoke alarms. Small, single-level homes may not benefit from interconnected smoke alarms because of the close proximity between smoke alarms.

Features on smoke alarms for your home:

- Depending on your home, smoke alarms can be powered in one of several ways.
  - House wiring
  - House wiring with battery back-up
  - Replaceable batteries, such as 9 volts
  - Sealed long life batteries; smoke alarms are disposed of after 10 years.

- Interconnected smoke alarms may offer quicker escape time and improved audibility.
  - Hard-wired interconnected smoke alarms can be found in most homes built after 1989.
  - Wireless interconnected smoke alarms are an alternative for older homes using single-station smoke alarms.
Which Smoke Alarm to Install?

Guide to selecting the smoke alarms to protect you and your family

Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires, and because homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home, the CPSC staff recommends using these guidelines to help best protect your family:

- Regular testing is the only way to make sure your smoke alarms are working. The CPSC staff recommends testing your smoke alarms once a month and installing more than one smoke alarm. If you test it less often and only have one smoke alarm, a non-working smoke alarm may leave you and your family unprotected.

A Fire Escape Plan May Save You and Your Family

Installing working smoke alarms is an essential, but they don't save lives unless everyone knows how to get out of the home safely. Make sure everyone knows how to escape when the smoke alarm sounds, whether awake or sleeping at the time. In your plan, have two ways out of each room, a pre-arranged meeting place outside and, most importantly, **ONCE OUT - STAY OUT!**

Minimizing the amount of time it takes to get out can improve your chances of surviving a hazardous home fire. Having a fire escape plan for you and your family can reduce the amount of time it takes to get out. Practicing the fire escape plan will help everyone understand what to do and where to meet.

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**BEST**

- IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SMOKE ALARM INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME, GET ONE AND INSTALL IT.
- Install a working smoke alarm on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms.
- Install both ionization and photoelectric type smoke alarms.
- Install interconnected smoke alarms.
- Install smoke alarms using house wiring with battery back-up.

**Better**

- IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SMOKE ALARM INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME, GET ONE AND INSTALL IT.
- Install more than one smoke alarm.
- Install interconnected smoke alarms.
- Install smoke alarms with sealed 10 year batteries.

**Good**

- IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SMOKE ALARM INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME, GET ONE AND INSTALL IT.
CPSC staff suggests the following when developing a fire escape plan for you and your family:

- Practice escaping from every room in the home.
- The best plans have two ways to get out of each room. If the primary way is blocked by fire or smoke, you will need a second way out.
- Practice the escape plan with your family during the day and at night. Children, older adults, and the hearing-impaired may sleep through a fire alarm or may need assistance in escaping.
- Designate a meeting location away from the home, but not necessarily across the street. For example, meet under a specific tree or at the end of the driveway or front sidewalk to make sure everyone has gotten out safely and no one will be hurt looking for someone who is already safe.
- Designate one person to go to a neighbor's home to phone the fire department.
- Practice the fire escape plan twice a year.

Safe Practices and Preventing a Fire in the Home

There are more than 300,000 residential fires a year. Working smoke alarms are a key factor in surviving a fire, but safe practices in the home are the first line of defense in preventing a fire from ever starting. Many residential fires and fire-related deaths are preventable. A fire can occur in anyone’s home and does not discriminate against age, race, or education.

The type of structure and the furnishings in a home play key roles in the type and progression of fire. It is difficult to accurately predict the type of fire that might occur in your home, but some simple safety steps can help reduce the risk of fire and better protect your family.
Safety around cooking appliances

Cooking equipment accounts for the largest percentage of residential fires. Because of oils used these fires are most often flaming fires. However, normal cooking can also produce steam, smoke, and fumes that set off alarms. Disabling a smoke alarm to silence frequent nuisance alarms could be a fatal mistake. Instead, moving the smoke alarm farther away from the cooking appliance may help prevent nuisance alarms and still provide adequate detection of the small fast moving fires that occur in the kitchen.

The CPSC staff suggests taking the following steps to prevent cooking fires in the home:

- Always keep an eye on food being heated. Unattended cooking causes the majority of fires in the kitchen. If you leave the kitchen, set a timer to remind you that something is on the stove.
- Keep children away from appliances when cooking. Have a "kid-free zone" around the stove and teach youngsters not to play in that area.
- Roll-up sleeves or, if possible, wear short or tight fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose fitting clothing and sleeves can be dangerous near open flames.
- Try not to reach over the stove. You can avoid this by not storing items you use directly over or behind the stovetop.
- Turn handles inward so pots and pans won't be pulled or knocked off the stove.

Check heating and cooling equipment

Heating and cooling equipment fires constitute the second largest share of residential fires. Home heating equipment includes central heating units, portable and stationary space heaters, fireplaces, chimneys, and heat transfer systems, as well as some devices not used to heat living spaces, most notably water heaters.

The CPSC staff suggests taking the following steps to prevent heating and cooling appliance fires in the home:

- Have a professional technician inspect your heating, cooling, and water appliances annually.
- Have the fireplace chimney checked and cleaned routinely by a chimney "sweep" at least once a year.
- Do not leave a portable heater operating unattended or operating while sleeping. Portable electric air heaters are designed for use only as temporary supplemental heating and only while attended.
- Look for portable heaters that are listed by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. These heaters have been tested to meet specific safety standards, and manufacturers are required to provide important use and care information to the consumer.
Check electrical cords and lighting

Electrical fires from wiring and lighting are the third leading cause of residential fires. Fire deaths are highest in winter months which call for more indoor activities and an increase in lighting, heating, and appliance use. Most electrical fires result from problems with installed wiring such as faulty electrical outlets and old wiring. Problems with cords and plugs, such as extension and appliance cords, also cause many home electrical fires.

The CPSC staff suggests taking the following steps to prevent electrical fires in the home:

- Do not use any electrical cord that is stiff or cracked. The insulation on electrical cords can become damaged by wear, flexing, or age.
- Inspect electrical cords for frayed wires, which can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged cords immediately.
- Install additional receptacles where needed. Extension cords should never be used as a long-term solution to the need for installing additional receptacles.
- Never use damaged electrical cords. Cords can become damaged when run under rugs or furniture.
- Keep combustibles away from light bulbs. Light bulbs, especially halogen types, get very hot and can ignite combustible materials that get too close.
- Never place clothing or towels on top of a lampshade. Do not use table lamps without a shade where they might fall over onto a bed or sofa.
- Use the correct wattage bulb for the fixture. Most light fixtures are labeled to show the type of and highest wattage bulb that can be safely used in that fixture; too high a wattage bulb can cause the fixture to overheat and start a fire.

Safety around upholstered furniture and mattresses

Upholstered furniture and mattresses and bedding are the items first ignited and involved in the greatest numbers of fire deaths. These items are commonly ignited by open flame products (such as candles, cigarette lighters, and matches) or smoking materials (primarily cigarettes). Young children playing with matches and lighters are often involved in starting these fires and, unfortunately, are also their primary victims.

The CPSC staff suggests taking the following steps to prevent fires in the home:

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of young children.
- Exercise caution when using candles. Do not leave candles unattended or lit while sleeping.
- Candles should be kept away from combustibles. Extinguish candles when you leave the room. If power is out, consider using flashlights instead.
- Never smoke in bed and extinguish tobacco products when tired.
- Use an ash tray when smoking.
To Prevent Nuisance Alarms:

» Clean alarms following the manufacturer’s instructions.

» Install alarms at least 10–15 feet from the kitchen range.

» Use photoelectric alarms near or in the kitchen. They are less sensitive to cooking activity.

» Choose an alarm that has a silencing feature so that nuisance alarms can be stopped quickly and easily.

» Install alarms away from bathrooms.

Know How to Escape:

» Plan your escape route, and practice leaving your home during the day and night.

» Assist those who need help.

» Adjust your escape plan, if necessary.

» Select one place outside where family members should meet.

» NEVER re-enter the home once outside.

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What Types of Smoke Alarms to Install?

Homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home. Follow these guidelines to protect your family:

» IF YOU DON’T HAVE SMOKE ALARMS IN YOUR HOME, GET THEM AND INSTALL THEM.

» Install both ionization- and photoelectric-type smoke alarms because ionization and photoelectric alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires. Ionization detectors respond quickly to flaming fires; photoelectric detectors respond quicker to smoldering fires. There are combination smoke alarms that use both technologies.

» Install interconnected smoke alarms because when one sounds, they all sound throughout the home. Interconnected smoke alarms are typically connected using a wire, but newer wireless technology is available that allows smoke alarms to be interconnected without using wires.

» Smoke alarms powered by house wiring should have battery back-up because during a power outage, smoke alarms with batteries will still provide protection.

Where to Install Smoke Alarms:

» in each bedroom,
» on each level in the home, and
» outside sleeping areas.

Take Care of Them:

» Test each alarm monthly by pushing the test button.

» Replace batteries once a year, or sooner, when they make a “chirping” sound.

» Replace alarms every 10 years, or follow the manufacturer’s replacement instructions.
Make Simple Changes That Could Help Save Lives

Use this checklist to find out if you are taking the right steps to protect your family:

1. Count Your Smoke Alarms
   Be sure there is at least one smoke alarm less than ten years old installed on every level of your home, including one in every bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

2. Change Your Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Detector Batteries
   The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and fire experts nationwide encourage people to change smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries annually. An easy way to remember to do so is to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when you change your clocks back to standard time November 1.

3. Check Your Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
   After inserting a fresh battery in each smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector, push the safety test button to make sure alarms are in proper-working condition. Conduct this test monthly. Never disconnect your smoke alarm battery! Remember that a “chirping” alarm is a signal it needs a fresh battery.

4. Clean Your Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
   Ensure your smoke alarms’ and carbon monoxide detectors’ sensitivity by cleaning them each month of dust and cobwebs.

5. Replace Your Smoke Alarms
   The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) recommends replacing smoke alarms every 10 years and having a combination of both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms to keep you alert to all types of home fires.

6. Change Your Flashlight Batteries
   Keep flashlights with fresh batteries at your bedside for help in finding the way out and signaling for help in the event of a fire.

7. Get the Whole Family Involved
   Once smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and have fresh batteries, you should make sure family members, children in particular, know what the alarms and detectors sound like and what to do should they go off.

Tell Your Friends

Twenty-eight years ago, Energizer® and the International Association of Fire Chiefs recognized a disturbing trend that many home fire fatalities were taking place in homes without working smoke alarms. In fact, the National Fire Protection Association reports that 71% of smoke alarms which failed to operate had missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Through the years, the two organizations have worked together along with thousands of fire departments and retailers nationwide on the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® program to help reduce this number by reminding communities to change and test the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Small acts can lead to positive changes. Let’s start by using the extra hour “gained” from daylight saving time to not only change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and test them, but, also to remind friends, family and neighbors to do the same.

Together we can help reduce the number of home fire fatalities as a result of nonworking smoke alarms.


Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® on November 1!

Source: Fire statistics were obtained from reports by the Fire Analysis and Research Division of the National Fire Protection Association. See www.nfpa.org for more information.

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