

Is your smoke alarm working?

The Truth About Fire - It's The Smoke That Kills!

A real fire is nothing like what is portrayed on television or in the movies. The smoke produced from a fire will darken a room to the point that you will not see your hand in front of your face. Fire doubles in size every 30 seconds and quickly uses up the "better" air in a room, replacing it with superheated smoke and poisonous gases.



The majority of people who die in a fire, succumb to heat and smoke inhalation, not flames. Having a working smoke alarm in your home greatly increases your chance of surviving a fire.

Sleeping Children

Studies have shown that young children often sleep through a smoke alarm. Test your alarm at night to see if your child awakes. Adapt your escape plan if needed.

Closed Doors

Closed doors act as barriers to smoke and fire. Increase your chance of surviving a fire and reduce smoke and fire damage by closing doors before going to bed. Consider closing all doors whenever you leave your home.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

serves citizens within portions of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. For additional fire prevention information, please contact your Division Office.

NORTH DIVISION OFFICE

14480 SW Jenkins Road
Beaverton, Oregon 97005-1152
503-259-1400

Serving the cities and communities of Aloha, Beaverton, Skyline, Tigard, and surrounding areas of unincorporated Multnomah and Washington counties.

SOUTH DIVISION OFFICE

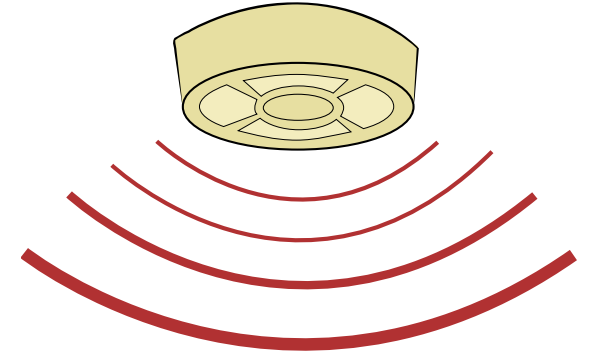
7401 SW Washo Court, Suite 101
Tualatin, Oregon 97062-8350
503-259-1500

Serving the cities and communities of Durham, King City, Rivergrove, Sherwood, Tualatin, West Linn, Wilsonville, and surrounding areas of unincorporated Clackamas and Washington counties.



We're **Your** Fire Department
www.tvfr.com

SMOKE ALARMS



Keep 'em

Noisy...

it means they're working!



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Keep it in the right place!

Alarm Placement

- Because deadly smoke rises, smoke alarms should be placed on ceilings or high on walls near ceilings.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home between the living areas and the bedrooms. For added protection, install alarms in each bedroom.
- Avoid installing smoke alarms too close to a kitchen or bathroom due to the potential for “false” alarms.

False Alarms

- Cooking and shower steam can prompt “false” alarms. If this occurs, push the hush button (if your alarm is equipped with one) or open a window, or door, and fan the smoke away. Relocate the alarm if false alarms are a consistent problem.
- Never remove the battery!



Our goal is to have a working smoke alarm in every home we serve. We provide smoke alarms and batteries at no cost to homeowners in need. Hearing-impaired smoke alarms are also available.

2

Keep it noisy!

Testing, Maintenance & Disposal

Smoke alarms do not last forever and require regular maintenance.

- To ensure your smoke alarm is working, push the test button each month. Include your children so they begin to recognize the sound.
- Vacuum your smoke alarm regularly to remove dust and cobwebs.
- When the smoke alarm battery is low or needs replacing, your alarm will generate a short “chirp” or beep every few minutes. When this occurs, change the battery or replace the alarm with a new one.
- For proper disposal of smoke alarms, please contact your local recycling center.



Visit our Safety Tips page at www.tvfr.com

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Keep your family even safer!

Working smoke alarms are critical to helping your family survive a fire, but there are other things that can help ensure your safety too. Sit down as a family and discuss the following:

Develop a Fire Escape Plan

- Plan two ways out of every room (doors and windows).
- Ensure windows open easily.
- Make sure you can safely reach the ground, which may mean purchasing a fire escape ladder.
- Identify a specific location outside your home as the meeting place for everyone.
- Practice! Test your alarm so ALL family members recognize the sound. Have family members crawl low along the floor to exit the home. (Deadly smoke and heat rise, so the “better” air is closer to the floor.) Once out, stay out! Never go back into a smoke-filled home!



In an emergency, get outside before calling 9-1-1 from your cell phone or a neighbor’s phone.