

Hi Safety Squad, it's Firefighter Tim and today we're going to learn all about smoke alarms. But first let's have a short review of what we learned in the last video. We learned what IS and what IS NOT an emergency. An emergency is when someone needs help right away. We also learned about a phone number you can call when there is an emergency. Do you remember that number? 9-1-1, good job!

First, let's talk about smoke. Which way does smoke travel? (up, down, left, right). Smoke always travels in one direction first, and that's up.

Now, is there something in our homes that might alert us that there's smoke or fire inside? Anything at all? That's right! A smoke alarm will let us know if there's smoke or fire inside a building. Hopefully, you've noticed smoke alarms similar to this one inside your home.

Where are these smoke alarms found in our homes? Remember that smoke travels up, so the best place for a smoke alarm would be on the ceiling. This makes it easier for the alarms to detect smoke.

How does the smoke alarm let us know that there is smoke or fire present? When a smoke alarm detects smoke or fire, it will make really loud beeps for you to hear. If we ever hear a smoke alarm going off; we need to get low and go.

How many smoke alarms do you think we should have in our homes? Well, we need at least 1 smoke alarm on every level of the home. So, if my house has three levels: a basement, middle floor, and top floor, then I would need at least 3 smoke alarms. One smoke alarm will go on each level of the home. Think of your home, how many levels do you have inside? Do you have at least 1 smoke alarm on each of these levels? It's also a really good idea to have a smoke alarm inside every sleeping area. This way the alarm will wake you up if there is a fire late at night while you are sleeping.

Smoke alarms are really easy to take care of, it's not like taking care of a cat or a dog. You don't have to feed it, bathe it, walk it, or play with it. There are two common types of smoke alarms that are found in our homes. One is a hard-wired smoke alarm which works off your home's electricity connecting wires to the smoke alarm and has either a 9-volt battery backup or a special sealed 10 year battery backup. The second type is a

battery-operated smoke alarm which gets its power from the battery that is sealed into the unit and should last 10 years.

Regardless of the type of smoke alarm you have, remember to test them monthly to make sure they are working properly. Each smoke alarm has a test button on it. By simply pressing and holding the test button for three to five seconds, we should hear either a beep or a series of beeps. This lets us know that the smoke alarm is working correctly. If we don't hear anything at all, it means the smoke alarm is not working properly and it should be replaced. Tonight, you and your parents should check all the smoke alarms in your home to make sure they're working properly.

If you have hard-wired smoke alarms with a 9 volt battery backup, we must remember to change the backup batteries every 6 months. At least twice a year we need give our smoke alarms brand new batteries.

Finally, we have to remember to replace our smoke alarms every 10 years. Did you know your smoke alarm has a birthday? A good way to remember your smoke alarm's birthday, is to write on the smoke alarm the date they were placed on the ceiling. If you're unsure of your smoke alarms birthday, have your parents look at the date printed on the back of it, that should be the manufacture date – you can use that date instead. So once your smoke alarms are getting close to 10 years old, it's time for Mom or Dad to replace them.

Guess what, that's it! You made it. Let's review what we learned today. A smoke alarm is a great tool that will let us know when there's smoke or fire present in a building. When you hear a smoke alarm go off, you need to get outside as quickly as possible. Remember to test your smoke alarms each month and replace the battery backups if you have hard-wired smoke alarms.