

# “Get Alarmed”

**(For a free smoke detector call: (318) 325-1621 ext. 3408 or 3419)**

Ouachita Parish Fire Department’s goal is to have working smoke alarm/detector in every home within our response jurisdiction. The program through which we intend to accomplish this task is called “Get Alarmed”. This program is a community oriented approach designed to educate the public on the importance of working smoke alarms, as well as the importance of having a fire escape plan. The target audience is those who cannot afford purchasing a smoke detector due to economic hardship and those who are not physically able to install detectors without outside assistance.



## SMOKE ALARM SAFETY TIPS

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Smoke alarms save lives. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.

- 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 year old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
  - Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
  - 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 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.
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# PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD-OF-HEARING

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Smoke alarms save lives. But those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing cannot depend on the sound of the regular alarm to alert them to a fire.

People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing should use alarms with strobe (flashing) lights that have been tested by an independent testing laboratory. The alarms for sleeping areas with strobe lights are required to be of a special high intensity that can wake a sleeping person.

Most major smoke alarm companies offer alarms with strobe lights. For information on availability and pricing, go to the manufacturers' Web sites. Manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of smoke alarms that meet U.L. standard 1971 for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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## HOME ESCAPE PLAN SAFETY TIPS

In the event of a fire, remember that **every second counts**, so you and your family must always be prepared. Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames.

**Prepare and practice your fire escape plan twice a year with everyone in your household, including children and people with disabilities.** It's also a good idea to practice your plan with overnight guests. Some tips to consider when preparing your escape plan include:

- Draw a map of each level of your home and show all doors and windows. Find two ways to get out of each room. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open easily.
- Only purchase collapsible escape ladders evaluated by a recognized testing laboratory. Use the ladder only in a real emergency.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them.
- Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability.
- Practice your fire escape plan at night and during the daytime.