Smoke Alarm General Knowledge

1. **ALL** Smoke alarms have batteries of some kind
2. **ALL** smoke alarms are **ONLY GOOD FOR 10 YEARS** - hardwired/battery operated alike
3. **ALL** homes build since 1999:
   - A. Are required to hardwired/interconnected alarms
   - B. Are required to have alarms inside every bedroom
   - C. Are required to have alarms outside every bedroom
   - D. Are required to have alarms on every level of the home

4. Most alarms have a battery back-up
5. Some alarms have 10 year built in batteries and do not need replacement batteries
6. Replaceable batteries need to be replaced **AT LEAST** once a year
7. We recommend – change your clock, change your batteries
8. Change one battery in one alarm, change the battery in **ALL** the alarms
9. Replace one alarm, replace them **ALL**
10. Alarms should **NEVER** be placed in a kitchen or a bathroom
11. **ALL ALARMS** must be reset by holding test button and activating it, after:
    - A. Batteries are replaced
    - B. Alarm is installed
13. We will **NEVER** disable an alarm, even if it is out of date
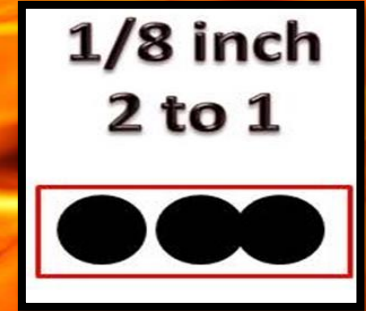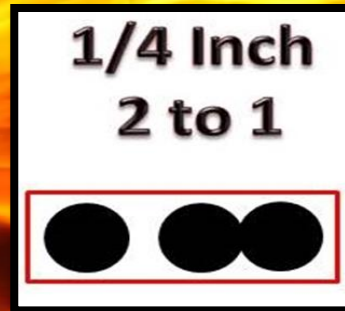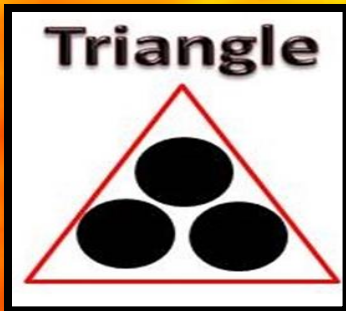14. We **DO NOT** service in any way monitored smoke detectors

> NOTE** **green**/**red** flashing lights indicate different things with different manufacturers. As a rule, ignore them!

FYI – ALARMS make noise, DETECTORS do not!

Hardwired Smoke Alarms

THE BASICS :

1. Any Home Built Since 1999 Has:
   - A. Hardwired Smoke Alarms
   - B. A Smoke Alarm Inside EVERY bedroom AND outside EVERY bedroom
   - C. Has A Smoke Alarm On Every Level Of The Home
2. ALL Smoke Alarms Expire After 10 Years From Their Birthday
   - A. Every Alarm Created Since 1999 Has A "BORN ON" Date Printed On The Back
   - B. If there is no date, it was made before '99 and must be replaced
3. Hardwired Smoke Alarms are CONNECTED to each other – one activates/all activate
   - A. The chirping alarm may not be the one with the low battery
   - B. Change one battery, CHANGE THEM ALL!

Triangle

1/4 Inch 2 to 1

1/8 inch 2 to 1

WE CAN/DO REPLACE HARDWIRED ALARMS
NO ELECTRICIAN NEEDED

Recommend Hardwired Replacements

Lowes Aisle 15

Home Depot Aisle 37

Ace Hardware Aisle 10

These alarms can be found in these exact packages in our local stores as labeled below each picture. You must be certain that the package has the words **"adapter included"** on the packaging as identified by the red circles above to be certain that they will work in your home.

Battery Operated Smoke Alarms

THE BASICS :

1. Can be found in any home but most often in homes built before 1999
2. **ALL** smoke alarms expire **10 Years** after their birthday
   - A. Every Alarm Created Since 1999 Has A "BORN ON" date
   - B. If there is no date, it was made before '99 and must be replaced
3. These alarms **CAN** have **BUILT IN/NEVER CHANGE 10 YEAR** batteries
4. If these alarms have replaceable batteries, batteries **MUST BE** replaced at least once a year
5. Most battery operated alarms **MUST BE** seated in bracket properly to activate
6. On occasion we have some battery operated alarms to give out but that is budget/grant dependent
7. Some battery operated alarms are "programed" to chirp after 10 years and not stop until replaced
8. We do not recommend replacing hardwired alarm systems with battery operated alarms

HOME DEPOT

LOWES

ACE HARDWARE

Recommended BATTERY POWERED Replacements

Troubleshooting Any Alarm

Step by Step

1. Disconnect/unseat the alarm from mounting bracket – **CHECK EXPIRATION DATE**
2. Disconnect power source – unplug wire and/or remove battery
3. **CRITCIAL STEP:** Push the test button and HOLD until all residual power is bled – this is known as a "hard reset"
4. Reverse this process and RE-install the alarm and battery
5. Once installed correctly – push and hold the test button until activation occurs – this is known as a "soft reset"
6. Repeat entire process on **EVERY** alarm in the house.

7. If trouble isn't fixed by the process above, change the battery in every alarm. Then conduct a "soft reset" holding every test button until activation

8. If 1-7 does not fix the problem it is not a power supply issue.

Don't run for your life, I am just malfunctioning!

9. Next, check for a faulty alarm.
   A. Disconnect/remove **ONE** alarm and remove battery.
   B. Press test button and bleed residual power
   C. Wait to see if a chirp is still heard
   D. If chirp is still heard, replace current alarm and remove another repeating the process.
   E. When the chirp stops with one alarm in your hand, you have the bad alarm.
   F. Recommend replacing that alarm

   REINSTALL THE ALARM BEFORE YOU LEAVE
10. Leave them with a copy of, email, text message with our recommended replacements and let them know that once they have replacements they can call us for assistance installing the new alarms/batteries.

Smoke Alarm Partners

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- We recommend one (1) alarm per CO source in a home.
    - Sources include any propane or natural gas source inside the home
    - We also recommend them if there is a golf cart stored inside (hydrogen)
- CO alarms have varied life spans by manufacturer – follow manufacturers recommended replacement intervals
- Any brand or style will work so long as it is approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL)
- Stand alone CO alarms are just as good as combination alarms
- Alarms can be placed on the ceiling, on walls, or in outlets and still be very effective
- Alarms must be calibrated to fresh air (outside) before being installed in the home
- To calibrate simply press test button in a known clean air atmosphere

Fire Extinguishers

- We recommend a minimum of two (2) extinguishers in every home.
    - One (1) in the kitchen near an exit furthest from the stove
    - One (1) in the bedroom to use to escape
- Homeowners can buy any brand, any color, any size so long as they can carry it and it has **five (5) letters – A, B, C, and UL**
- We recommend that extinguishers be serviced by a service company or replaced every year to ensure that it will work when/if needed
- Old fire extinguishers can be used for practice in the back yard until completely empty OR they can be dropped off at Beaufort County Convenience Centers near the paint/recycling building.