



HOME FIRE SAFETY FIELD GUIDE

DEVELOPED BY THE
COMMUNITY RISK
REDUCTION DIVISION

BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT



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BTFD CRR

Smoke Alarm General Info

Did you know...

- All smoke alarms have batteries of some kind.
- All smoke alarms are only good for 10 Years.
- All homes built since 1999 are required to:
 - Have hard-wired, interconnected alarms.
 - Are required to have alarms inside every bedroom
 - Are required to have alarms outside every bedroom
 - Are required to have alarms on every level of the home
- Most alarms have a battery back-up
- Some alarms have 10-year built in battery and do not require battery replacement.
- Replaceable batteries should to be replaced AT LEAST once a year.

ALARMS
make noise,
DETECTORS
do not!



- We recommend – if you change your clock, change your batteries (Spring & Fall)
- If you change a battery in one alarm, change the battery in **ALL** the alarms
- If you replace one alarm, replace them **ALL**.
- Alarms should NEVER be placed in a kitchen or a bathroom.
- ALL ALARMS must be reset by holding test button and activating it, after:
 - Batteries are replaced
 - Alarm is installed
- **NEVER** disable an alarm in a home, even if it is out of date
- We DO NOT service in any way monitored smoke detectors/alarms.

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BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT



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Smoke Alarm Connections

Hard-wired alarms are connected to each other. When one activates all activate.

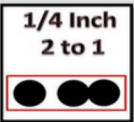
The smoke alarm that is chirping may not be the one with a low battery. Change one battery, change them all.

Every smoke alarm manufactured since 1999 has A "BORN ON" date printed on the back.

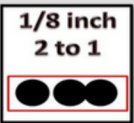
If there is no date it should be replaced.



Triangle connector
Generally Kidde Alarms



1/4" (2+1 Pinout)
Generally Firex Alarms



1/8" (2+1 Pinout)
Generally BRK Alarms

BTFD will replace hard-wired smoke alarms as long as no electrician is needed.



Suggested Hard-wired Replacements



Lowe's
Aisle 15



Home Depot
Aisle 40



Ace Hardware
Aisle 10

The smoke alarms shown above are available in our local stores on the aisles listed. Be sure that the package indicates "adapters included" to ensure compatibility with your current wired smoke alarms.

A Word About Batteries

- Smoke alarm batteries should be replaced at least once per calendar year. We also encourage residents to change their batteries when time changes occur; Spring FORWARD, Fall BACK.
- Many smoke alarms are not compatible with Lithium replacement batteries. Be sure to consult the manufacturer's manual for proper type. If the wrong battery type is used, it may cause the alarm to chirp as if the battery is dead or device is defective.
- In general, smoke alarm ONLY units take a 1 - 9V alkaline battery. Combination smoke & CO alarm units take 2 - AA alkaline batteries.



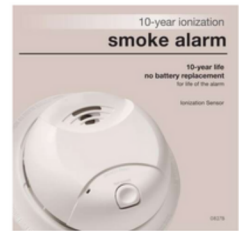
Battery-powered Replacements



Lowe's
Aisle 15



Home Depot
Aisle 40



Ace Hardware
Aisle 10

The smoke alarms shown above are available in our local stores on the aisles listed. Be sure that the package indicates "adapters included" to ensure compatibility with your current wired smoke alarms.

- Can be found in any home but most often in homes built before 1999
- **ALL** smoke alarms expire **10 Years** after their manufacture date
 - Every alarm manufactured since 1999 has a date on back
 - If there is no date, it was made before 1999 and must be replaced
- Battery alarms CAN have BUILT IN/NEVER CHANGE 10 YEAR batteries
- If the alarm has a replaceable battery, it **MUST BE** replaced at least once a year
- Most battery powered alarms **MUST BE** properly seated in their mounting bracket to operate.
- We do provide battery operated alarms to distribute from State Fire or the American Red Cross
- Some battery operated alarms are "programed" to chirp after 10 years and not stop until replaced
- It is **NOT** ever recommended to replace a hardwired smoke alarm with a battery powered unit



STEP-BY-STEP TROUBLESHOOTING

1. Disconnect/unseat the alarm from mounting bracket – CHECK EXPIRATION DATE
2. Disconnect power source – unplug wire and/or remove battery
3. CRITICAL 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

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



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.



PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

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





PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Fire Extinguishers



Types of Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are rated by the type of fire they can put out. It is important to choose the proper fire extinguisher for each fire. Fire extinguishers are labeled with letters and/or pictures to indicate the type of fire on which the extinguisher is effective.



A Ordinary Combustibles Fire

Paper, wood, plastics, fabric, rubber, trash



B Flammable Liquids Fire

Gasoline, oil, grease, some paints and solvents



C Electrical Fire

Energized electrical equipment; appliances, computers, wiring

- 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.



PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Fire Extinguishers



There are four basic steps to using a fire extinguisher:

Pull – Place the extinguisher on the floor. Hold it by the tank (pressure on the handle could pinch the pin). Pull the pin straight out.

Aim – Start 10 feet back from the fire. Aim at the base of the fire.

Squeeze – Squeeze the lever on the fire extinguisher .

Sweep—Sweep from side to side, moving in slowly until the fire is out.

GET OUT – If the fire gets bigger, close the door and evacuate.

Remember to P.A.S.S.

HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

THE P.A.S.S. METHOD

			
PULL THE SAFETY PIN FROM THE HANDLE	AIM AT THE NOZZLE OR HOSE AT THE BASE OF THE FIRE	SQUEEZE THE HANDLE SLOWLY TO DISCHARGE THE AGENT	SWEEP SIDE TO SIDE, KEEPING A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE FIRE



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