

Fire Fatalities Are on the Rise: Act Today!

In Ontario, statistics have shown us that majority of fatal fires occur at night when people are sleeping. In 2022, we saw an alarming 133 fire-related deaths in the Province of Ontario. These are the highest numbers that we have seen in more than two decades. A very high percentage of those fire fatalities occurred in homes without working smoke alarms. Having working smoke alarms properly installed on every level and outside sleeping areas in your home will detect smoke and alert you of a fire emergency.

Smoke Alarms – What you Need to Know!

- **THEY EXPIRE** - Smoke alarms do not last forever! Remember to replace alarms that are more than 10 years old.
- **WHERE SHOULD THEY BE INSTALLED**- Smoke alarms shall be installed outside all sleeping areas and on every level of the home. Depending on the age of your home, smoke alarms may also be located inside each bedroom as well.
- **DO NOT LOWER THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION** – There are many different types of smoke alarms to choose from. Smoke alarms can be electrically connected, battery-operated or both! When replacing a smoke alarm, you must replace it with the same type (electrically connected or battery operated)
- **PRESS TO TEST** – Test your smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button and listen for the alarm to sound! If you have battery operated alarms or alarms equipped with battery back-up, it is recommended to change batteries twice a year at the same time you change your clocks for daylight savings.



Home Escape Planning – What you Need to Know!

- **BE PREPARED** – When a fire occurs, there is no time to spare. That is why it is so important to prepare with loved ones a step-by-step plan for escaping from a fire.
- **GET OUT** – Do not stop for anything! Do not try to grab possessions or pets. Go directly to your meeting place outside and then call the fire department (911) either by cell phone or from a neighbour's phone.
- **STAY OUT** – Once you are out of your home, do not go back for any reason. Firefighters have the training, experience and protective equipment needed to enter burning buildings.

Working smoke alarms combined with a home escape plan give you the best possible chance to escape a fire in your home. Take action today and ensure you and your family are protected.

If you require assistance or have questions please contact our Fire Prevention Division at (905) 640 9595 or by email at fire.prevention@townofws.ca. For more fire safety information, you can also visit our website at www.townofws.ca/fire.

