

# 10 IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for fire safety and awareness



- 1 Put a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Put a smoke alarm inside every bedroom.
- 2 Make sure your smoke alarms work. Test your smoke alarms. Push the test button. You will hear a loud noise. If you don't hear the noise, you need a new battery or a new alarm.
- 3 Make sure the smoke alarm always has a good battery. Put a new battery in the alarm every year.
- 4 Smoke alarms with *long-life batteries* will work for up to 10 years. You do not change the battery.
- 5 Smoke alarms do not last forever. Get new smoke alarms every 10 years.
- 6 Tell your family what to do if they hear the smoke alarm. Make an escape plan so everyone knows how to get out fast. Pick a meeting place outside the home where everyone will meet. Some children and older adults cannot hear the smoke alarm when they are sleeping. Make a plan for how to wake them up. Practice your escape plan with everyone in your family two times each year.
- 7 Install home fire sprinklers in your home. Home fire sprinklers and working smoke alarms greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase your property value and lower your insurance rates.
- 8 Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away.  
*If you live in an area where homes are located in or close to forests or vegetation areas, you should think about the following safety tips.*
- 9 Install 1/8 inch or smaller mesh screening that cannot burn on attic/soffit vents and around wood decks to keep out embers. Install spark arrestors on fire place chimneys or wood stove vents.
- 10 Keep all items that can burn away from your home. Clean leaves from your gutters. Clear dead leaves and branches from shrubs and trees.



For more information on fire safety and prevention, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/FireIsEveryonesFight](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/FireIsEveryonesFight)  
For more information about wildland fire safety, visit Ready Set Go [wildlandfirersg.org](http://wildlandfirersg.org)