

FIRE PREVENTION



SMOKE ALARMS / FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

 **Medicor**[®]
HEALTHCARE

Installing and Testing Smoke Alarms

Home Safety Council research shows that 97 percent of American homes have at least one smoke alarm, but one may not be enough. Do you have enough smoke alarms in your home? Are they correctly installed? Early warning is essential for every fire escape plan. To ensure your family will be effectively alerted to any fire dangers, use the following guidelines when installing and testing smoke alarms:

- Only purchase smoke alarms that are listed by UL and carry the UL mark on packaging.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Make sure there is an alarm near every sleeping area.
- The Home Safety Council recommends installing additional smoke alarms inside all bedrooms. For the best detection and notification protection, install both ionization- and photoelectric-type smoke alarms. Some models provide dual coverage. The type will be printed on the box or package.
- Smoke rises, so smoke alarms should be mounted high on walls or ceilings. Ceiling mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.
- Choose an installation location that is well away from the path of steam from bathrooms and cooking vapors from the kitchen, which can result in false, or nuisance alarms.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Test each smoke alarm every month. Push the test button until you hear a loud noise.
- Put new batteries in your smoke alarms at least one time each year.
- The Home Safety Council recommends using interconnected smoke alarms. These are available with wireless connection and hard-wired with battery back-up. These alarms are tied in together so that if one alarm operates, they all signal together. Some models provide dual coverage (both ionization and photoelectric sensing technology).
- If your smoke alarms are more than 10 years old, get new smoke alarms.



How and When to Use a Fire Extinguisher

Home Safety Council’s State of Home Safety in America™ report identifies fires and burns as the third leading cause of unintentional home injury related death. While portable household fire extinguishers are not designed or intended to fight a large or spreading fire, knowing how to properly operate one may prove vital in the event of a small fire.

Before a Fire

- Select the most appropriate size and type of fire extinguisher(s) for your home.
- Choose the largest fire extinguisher you can physically handle.
- Read all the directions and know how to use an extinguisher. If possible, get training from your local fire department or workplace that will let you practice putting out a fire.
- Keep the instructions so you can review them from time to time.
- Mount the extinguisher near an exit door and out of the reach of children.

Fighting a Small Fire

- Make sure everyone else is leaving the home.
- Ask someone to call the fire department from outside.

If the fire is still small and not spreading, quickly get your extinguisher. Start with your back toward the exit, making sure the fire does not block your escape route. Stand 6 -8 feet away from the fire. Then, remember the word “**PASS**”:

- **P**ull the pin out to unlock the operating lever.
- **A**im low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle (or hose) at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent. Be prepared – it will come out with force.
- **S**weep from side to side, moving carefully toward the fire. Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire, sweeping back and forth until all the flames are out. Watch the fire area. If the fire re-ignites, repeat the process.

Important: If the fire does not go out quickly, or if you feel at risk in any way, leave immediately and let the fire department handle it. Fighting a fire can be dangerous. Only adults who know how and when to use an extinguisher should attempt to put out a fire. Children should not use fire extinguishers.

After a Fire

Even if you believe the fire is out, have the fire department inspect your home to look for hidden hot spots that could flare up later.



1-800-250-4468
E-mail: info@medicor.us
www.medicorhealthcare.com

