

# SMOKE ALARM FACTS

## **Install**

South King Fire and Rescue recommends that you install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, including the basement. Even better is one in every bedroom. Smoke alarms are designed to wake you up if a fire starts while you are sleeping. Be sure your smoke alarms are near bedrooms and other sleeping areas in your home.

## **Test**

When was the last time you heard your smoke alarm? Battery-operated alarms should be tested once a month to make certain they are working.

## **Change**

Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year. South King Fire & Rescue recommends you do this when we change our clocks to Daylight Savings Time each fall. Install a new battery immediately if an alarm “chirps” to indicate a low battery.

A ten-year lithium battery smoke alarm does not need to have its battery changed. Replace smoke alarms that use extended-life, lithium batteries when the alarm “chirps” or fails to respond to periodic testing. The batteries in these units cannot be replaced.

## **False Alarms**

Use the hush button to silence a false alarm. Never disconnect or remove the battery. If your smoke alarm does not have a hush button use a magazine or kitchen towel to wave fresh air into the detection unit

## **Replace**

Replace your smoke alarm every ten years. After ten years, your smoke detector will have been working consecutively for 87,000 hours. No other appliance in your home works this long. If you do not know how old your smoke alarm is, or if it is ten years or older, replace it as soon as possible.

## **FREE SMOKE ALARMS FOR QUALIFIED HOME OWNERS**

Do you need smoke alarms in your home? You may qualify for free smoke alarms from the South King Fire & Rescue if you meet the following criteria:

- You live in the City of Des Moines or Federal Way
- You own and live in your home
- You are living on a low income, are a senior citizen or are disabled

If you fit these criteria and wish to request the installation of smoke alarms in your home, call South King Fire & Rescue Community Education 253-946-7337.