Smoke alarms

Face the facts

- Smoke alarms should be installed on or near the ceiling, in bedrooms or the hallway or corridor that serves it.

- If you have a multi-level home, a smoke alarm should be installed on each level.

- Smoke alarms should be tested regularly.

- Keep the smoke alarm clean, vacuum the cover and vents of the alarm regularly.

- If your smoke alarm should go off accidentally, open doors and windows and use a newspaper or magazine to introduce fresh air to the smoke alarm.

- Batteries should be replaced once a year at the end of daylight saving.

- Install the smoke alarm as per manufacturers instructions.

- A 240 volt (hard wired) smoke alarm with battery backup is the preferred option.

- Smoke alarms for the deaf and hard of hearing are also available.

- Smoke alarms should be compliant with the Australian Standard AS3786-2014.

- When your smoke alarm activates, if safe, investigate and if necessary follow your Home Evacuation Plan and call 000.

REMEMBER: Only working smoke alarms save lives

Properly installed smoke alarms that are working correctly greatly increase the survival rate of occupants within a building in the event of a fire. Smoke alarms should be regularly tested to ensure they operate as designed.

There are two types of smoke alarms available for residents in the ACT, photoelectric smoke alarms and ionisation smoke alarms.

ACTF&R recommends that hard wired (240v) and interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms are fitted wherever possible, as they can be more effective in detecting smouldering fires. If battery powered alarms are being used, the photoelectric alarms powered by a 10 year lithium battery are the best option.

If you have an ionisation smoke alarm that is approaching its expiry date (usually 10 years) or becomes faulty, we encourage you to replace them with photoelectric smoke alarms.

ACT FIRE & RESCUE