



# Smoke Alarms & Fire Alarm Systems

Chances are you're living with two different fire safety systems and may not even know it!

**Fire Alarm Systems** are designed to notify all occupants throughout the entire building or complex of a fire. Some systems will automatically notify the fire department, while some sound an alarm on-site only. Regardless of the type of system you have, always call 911 in the event of a fire.



**Smoke Alarms** are mounted on the ceiling or high on a wall in your living space and are designed to alert you of the presence of smoke, especially when you are asleep. When they sense smoke, they will sound an alarm inside your living space only, not the entire building.

The following tips will help ensure your smoke alarm works properly:

- Owners are required to provide a working smoke alarm. Renters are required to test the alarm and change the batteries.
- Test smoke alarm batteries once a month and replace any battery too weak to sound the alarm.
- Most alarms "chirp" when their battery power is low. When you hear the warning, replace the batteries, do not disconnect the unit.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries routinely on the same day each year. We suggest that you change them when setting your clocks back in the fall.
- Some smoke alarms contain a long-life lithium battery, requiring the owner to simply replace the entire alarm after 8-10 years. Long-life lithium batteries can also be purchased for smoke alarms and are recommended for smoke alarms located on high ceilings or hard to reach areas.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, even if they appear to be working.
- Vacuum or dust your smoke alarm often to remove dirt and debris and keep your sensors clear.
- Never paint your alarm or cover it in any way.
- If your smoke alarm stops working or malfunctions contact your manager or building owner.
- False alarms can often be stopped by re-locating the alarm or replacing ionization sensor alarms with alarms that use a photoelectric sensor. Contact your Manager for assistance.

