

Grade Level

K, 1, 2

Objectives

- Identify the purpose of smoke alarms.
- Identify where smoke alarms should be installed.
- Identify how to keep smoke alarms in working order.

Materials

For the discussion you will need:

smoke alarm
batteries

Procedure:

1. Ask students if they know what smoke alarms are and why they should have them in their homes.

- Smoke alarms help protect families by making a very loud beeping noise to warn that smoke is in the air or a fire has started.
- Sometimes, especially at night when people are sleeping, they may not see fire, smell smoke or wake up in time to get out safely.
- Smoke alarms provide an early warning signal for escape from fire.

2. Demonstrate what a smoke alarm looks like and the sound it makes when it detects smoke.

3. Ask students what they should do if they hear a smoke alarm sound.

- They need to follow their home fire escape plan and get out fast.

4. Ask students if they know where smoke alarms should be installed.

- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home, including the basement.
- For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside the sleeping area.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling or on the side walls 6 to 8 inches below the ceiling.

5. Ask students how often they think the batteries in smoke alarms should be changed.

- Batteries should be changed at least once a year and tested monthly to make sure they are working.

6. Show students where the batteries go in a smoke alarm. Press the test button to demonstrate it is working properly. Also, remind students that alarms need to be kept clean from dust. This can be done by running a vacuum cleaner attachment over and around them.

7. Conclude the lesson by telling students they can keep their homes safe from fire by helping grown-ups remember to:

- Put smoke alarms in the home, especially near bedrooms
- Test smoke alarms monthly to make sure they are working
- Replace with brand new batteries at least once a year
- Keep smoke alarms clean from dust

