

Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services



UNDERSTANDING MARYLAND'S NEW SMOKE ALARM LAW

A new state law went into effect on January 1, 2018 intended to reduce home fire deaths. The law requires that any battery only operated smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old be replaced with a unit that is powered by a 10 year lithium sealed-in battery. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the National Association of State Fire Marshals recommend their use due to the sealed-in, long life battery alarms that provide continuous protection for a decade.

The FAQ's

Where should smoke alarms be placed in my home?

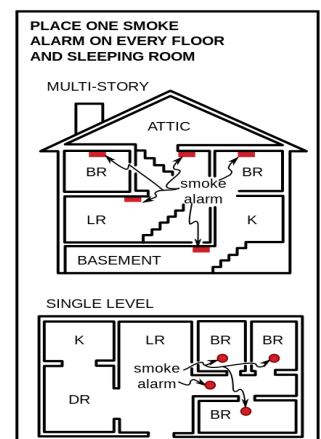
- Smoke alarms should to be placed inside of every sleeping area and on every level including the basement. Smoke alarms should not be placed in the kitchen or within 10 feet from a cooking appliance.

When do I need to replace my smoke alarms?

- Smoke alarms need to be replaced every 10 years from the manufacture date which can be found on the back of the smoke alarm. If you can't find the date then time to replace.

What is the difference between battery operated and hard wired smoke alarms?

- Battery operated smoke alarms function off battery power only. Smoke alarms with the ten year lithium sealed-in battery never need to be changed.
- Hard wired smoke alarms are interconnected through your house so when one sounds, they all sound. They are powered by your home's electricity with a battery back up in case your house loses power. The batteries should be changed every 6 months. A good time is Daylight savings, "Change your clock, Change your battery". Always remember....



Test Your Smoke Alarms Monthly

For further information on Maryland's new smoke alarm law, please call 410-313-6000 or email outreach@hcdfrs.org

