



## Graham Fire & Rescue

### SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke detectors are still the final key to saving lives when fire prevention fails. The majority of fatal home fires happen at night, when people are asleep. Once a fire starts, smoke, which enters a bedroom, will more than likely kill before fire ever reaches you. Contrary to popular belief, the smell of smoke may not wake a sleeping person. The poisonous gases and smoke produced by fire can numb the senses and put you into a deeper sleep.

A working smoke detector can double a person's chances for surviving a fire, by providing the extra time for a safe escape. Smoke detectors placed within the proper areas of the home will alert occupants long before a fire reaches a significant size, as anyone who has ever burnt a piece of toast well knows.



Nationally, more than 90 percent of all homes have smoke detectors. It is estimated that one-third of these detectors are not in working order, due to dead or missing batteries.

Smoke detector batteries should be replaced twice a year to insure proper performance. The best way to remember this is to do so when you change your clocks in the spring and fall, thus, the fire prevention saying, "**Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries**".

- ✓ Smoke detectors (even those that are hard-wired) should be tested monthly.
- ✓ Clean your smoke detectors using a vacuum cleaner without removing the detector's cover.
- ✓ Never paint a smoke detector.

Replace any smoke detector that is more than 10 years old. Contact Graham Fire & Rescue at 253-847-8811 for a free smoke detector.