



# The East Side Flyer

[www.eastsidefire.com](http://www.eastsidefire.com)

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## ***SMOKE ALARMS - DID YOU KNOW?***

Smoke alarms are all-in-one self-contained units that include the smoke sensor and an audible alarm. These are most likely what you have in your home. Smoke detectors contain only the smoke sensor, and the alarm is in a separate unit with the controls kept in a central location. These are used mainly in commercial applications such as hotels and hospitals.

**SENSORS** – There are two types of sensors for detecting smoke and fire.

- Ionization – This sensor is generally more responsive to flaming fires.
- Photoelectric – This sensor is more sensitive to fires that begin with a long period of smoldering, with little flame initially.
- Most smoke alarms have both sensors and will be labeled on the back of the unit. Make sure your alarm has both.
- There are some alarms on the market that are “split spectrum photoelectric” which are highly sensitive to both types of fires.



## **HARDWIRED VS BATTERY**

- Hardwired alarms are interconnected. Some have battery backup in case of power failure.
- Some homes are not wired for smoke alarms so will have battery-operated units.
- Idaho building code requires new construction to have hardwired alarms with battery backup.
- It's important to know which kind of alarm you have for replacing.
- **ALL smoke alarms must be replaced every 10 years.** Even though the alarm appears to be working properly, sensor sensitivity weakens over time and may not perform efficiently. Expiration dates are clearly marked on the back of the alarm.

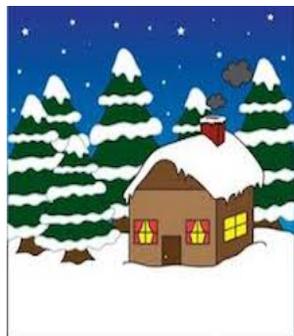
## **PLACEMENT**

- Place one alarm inside every bedroom and outside every sleep area (for example, a hallway that leads to bedrooms).
- Place at least one on every level, including basements.
- If placing on a wall, it should be not further than 12 inches from the ceiling. Don't place near exterior doors, windows or vents.

## ***BEFORE WINTER ARRIVES***

The hot weather this summer may have you looking forward to the cooler temperatures of autumn – and what better time than autumn to prepare for winter! Here are some tips.

- **WEATHER STRIPPING** – Check doors, windows, vents and fans, and areas where plumbing, electrical and gas lines enter the home. Replace if cracked or missing.
- **CLEAN RAIN GUTTERS**
- **ICE DAMS** – Insulate your attic to prevent warm house air from warming attic space. This may cause roof snow to begin to melt and then refreeze at night, leading to an ice dam. Make sure your attic space is ventilated so cold air freely flows through.
- **BUY A ROOF RAKE** – Remove snow between storms. Multiple storms will compact snow making it harder to remove and more likely to form an ice dam.
- **PRUNE TREES AROUND HOME** – Help prevent broken branches from falling on your home. Prune branches that when snow-laden may droop, limiting access on your road, driveway and around your home.
- **CLEAN YOUR CHIMNEY** - There are more than 25,000 chimney fires annually.



## ***COMING IN OCTOBER***

**A Community Emergency Preparedness Presentation  
Hosted by East Side Fire at Arrow Point Station  
Stay tuned for details!**

