

# FIRE SAFETY

## Smoke Alarms—The Sound For Safety

(NASPA)—It's never too late to make sure your home has a workable early warning system to detect smoke or fire. That means making sure your smoke alarms are working and installed in the right places.

Remember, the most common cause of smoke alarm failures is missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Never remove smoke alarm batteries to prevent nuisance alarms.

Be sure that everyone in the house is familiar with the sound of the alarm and can hear it from the bedrooms. This is especially important because more than half of home fire deaths occur between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., when most people are sleeping. An alarm can alert you and your family to danger before the smoke and heat can harm you.

The safety experts at The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. offer these fire safety tips for the correct installation and care of smoke alarms:

### Install in the Right Place

- Place smoke alarms outside each sleeping area, inside any bedroom where the door is typically shut and on every story of the house, including the basement.

- Install wall-mounted smoke alarms four to 12 inches from the ceiling, and ceiling-mounted models at least four inches from the nearest wall.

To maintain smoke alarms properly, Hartford safety experts



**SOUND IDEA**—Having enough smoke alarms and keeping them in working condition are important fire safety steps you can take to save lives in your home.

suggest you test the units each month. Also, install new batteries once a year, such as on the day you change your clocks for daylight-saving time, or when the low-battery warning alarm sounds. Finally, for optimum performance, smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

A free booklet called *Fire Sense: A Smart Way to Prevent, Detect and Escape Home Fires* is available by writing to: The Hartford, Fire Sense, 200 Executive Blvd., Southington, CT 06489 or by visiting [www.thehartford.com/firesense](http://www.thehartford.com/firesense).