



Stone Harbor Fire Prevention Bureau
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Fire Facts



Smoke Alarm Save Lives! An estimated 890 lives could be saved every year if all homes had working smoke alarms

According to the National Fire Protection Association NFPA, a smoke alarm, available at any hardware store, can reduce your risk of dying in a home fire.

Fire statistics show that the majority of fatal home fire happens at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone in the home time to leave. Evidence compiled over the past several decades shows that a working smoke alarm can reduce the chances of dying in a fire by 50%.

A Fatal Mistake

Studies also show that roughly one fifth of the tens of millions of smoke alarms installed in homes are not in proper working condition.

Many of these inoperable alarms simply lack a working battery. NFPA urges everyone to test their smoke alarms at least once a month, replace the batteries once a year, and never “borrow” batteries for some other use. The alarm itself should be replaced every 10 years.

Smoke Alarm Installation

Battery powered smoke alarms are easy to install. All you need is a screwdriver and a small drill. Follow the manufacturers instructions.

Smoke rises, so mount the alarm on the ceiling or high on the wall.

Ceiling mounting: position alarm at least four inches away from the nearest wall.

Wall mounting: position the top of the alarm 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling.

Mount your smoke alarms in the path of the smoke.

On a floor with bedrooms, the detector should be within 10 feet of the bedrooms

New construction built on or after 1990 requires smoke detectors in the hallway and in each bedroom.

Alarming Statistics

49% of home fires happened in homes with working smoke alarms

34% of home fire deaths happen in those fires.

46% of home fires happened in homes with no working smoke alarms

65% of home fire deaths happen in those fires.

(Statistics 2000-2004)



CO Alarms: Fight the silent killer. Just because you can't see carbon monoxide (CO) doesn't mean it can't harm you.

What is CO? It is an invisible odorless gas that is produced when common fuels burn-like wood, coal, natural gas, gasoline, propane, heating oil, or methane. It is produced by gasoline and diesel engines, but not by electrical equipment.

How does CO kill? Because it is poisonous, simply breathing in CO can be harmful or even deadly. Exposure to smaller doses may cause symptoms that might be confused with the flu or food poisoning. You may feel dizzy or lightheaded or experience shortness of breath.

High levels of CO can kill you within a few minutes.

CO alarms can protect you from CO pollution by giving you an early warning about CO buildup in your home.

CO Alarm Installation

Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed when gas, oil, any type of fireplace, or an attached garage is located in your house.

They should be installed on each level of the house and within 10 feet of each sleeping area.



Portable Fire Extinguishers

Portable fire extinguishers are designed to put out small fires. Most are sold for home use and have a short range (6-10 feet) and discharge completely in (8-10 seconds). You must know how to use an extinguisher before you attempt to put out a fire.

Fires are more likely to start in some areas of the home than in others. According to NFPA, 40% of the 396,000 home fires that firefighters responded to in 2006 started in the kitchen.

Stone Harbor requires one fire extinguisher to be installed in every kitchen in rental properties.

The extinguisher must have a minimum rating of **2A 40 BC** or higher



The extinguisher must be mounted in the kitchen, but if you wish to hang it in a closet or cabinet, you must label the closet or cabinet.

The extinguisher must be inspected yearly by a NJ fire extinguisher dealer and tagged with a service date. Visit this link to make sure the contractor is on the list:

www.nj.gov/dca/dfs/contractorslisting.pdf