



Safety Bulletin
October 2024



The week of October 6 - 12, 2024, is Fire Prevention Week. This year's Fire Prevention Week™ campaign, **“Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!™.”**

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the first week of October in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

When working smoke alarms are present in your home, the risk of dying in a home fire is cut by 60 percent, according to the latest NFPA research. But how often are smoke alarms used in the United States and are they used properly?

In September 2024, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published the results of a comprehensive survey that assesses the prevalence, functionality, and public perception of smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in U.S. households. The survey, completed in 2024, was administered to 1,060 U.S. households across twenty-four metropolitan areas (MSAs) as well as non- MSAs. In total, 1,314 alarms (71% smoke alarms, 22% smoke/CO alarms, 7% CO alarms) were tested across 985 households for the study. Households (75) without smoke alarms or having alarms connected to a security system participated in the survey portion only. Based on the sample households, the study estimates 16% of U.S. households have no functional alarms, mostly due to having no working alarms in the household (15%) as opposed to missing smoke and CO alarms entirely (1%). The study estimates 84% of households have at least one fully functional alarm (smoke or CO). While this is a small sampling of households, it does show that there is a concerted effort to have functioning smoke detectors in the home.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or stop responding when tested.

Smoke and CO Alarms for People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

For individuals with hearing impairments NFPA has a great resource that provides guidance for [special](#) alarm and devices for smoke and carbon monoxide.

The NFPA has additional resources available <https://www.nfpa.org/Education-and-Research/Home-Fire-Safety> We encourage ICRMA members to share this information with their employees. Also remember to check your smoke detector batteries.