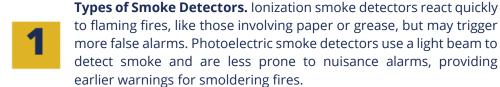
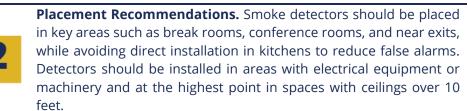


Smoke Detector Safety TIPS



Smoke detectors are essential for fire safety, providing early warnings that help people escape and limit property damage. Fires can start from electrical issues, equipment, or heating systems, making detectors important in all workplaces. Home fire risks are also common, often caused by cooking, heating, or electronics. Encouraging employees to use smoke detectors at home extends safety awareness beyond the workplace. Carbon monoxide detectors are equally vital, protecting against an invisible, odorless, and potentially deadly gas from fuel-burning appliances and vehicles. For complete protection, they should be installed in areas where people sleep and near any fuel-burning equipment. Follow the tips below to properly select, place, and use smoke detectors to help protect people and property:







Employee Awareness and Response. Employees should know how to respond when a smoke detector sounds: evacuate quickly, follow the facility's emergency plan, and never ignore or disable a detector. Report any malfunctioning detector immediately so it can be repaired or replaced, and never cover or disable a detector.



Best Practices. For optimal safety, it is recommended to use combination smoke detectors with both ionization and photoelectric sensors or separate units of each type. Batteries need to be tested weekly and replaced every six months. Smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years or as recommended by the manufacturer.



Regulatory and Safety Resources. National standards guide the use of dual-sensor smoke detectors and proper placement in homes and buildings. To meet legal requirements and protect people who are deaf or hard of hearing, systems should include visual alerts (like flashing lights) and alarms that meet required sound levels. Additional resources are provided below.

LEARN MORE WITH THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Texas Department of Insurance: Workplace Safety Videos-Smoke Detectors
- Installing and maintaining smoke alarms NFPA
- U.S. Access Board Home
- U.S. Fire Administration (USFA): <u>Smoke Alarms</u>