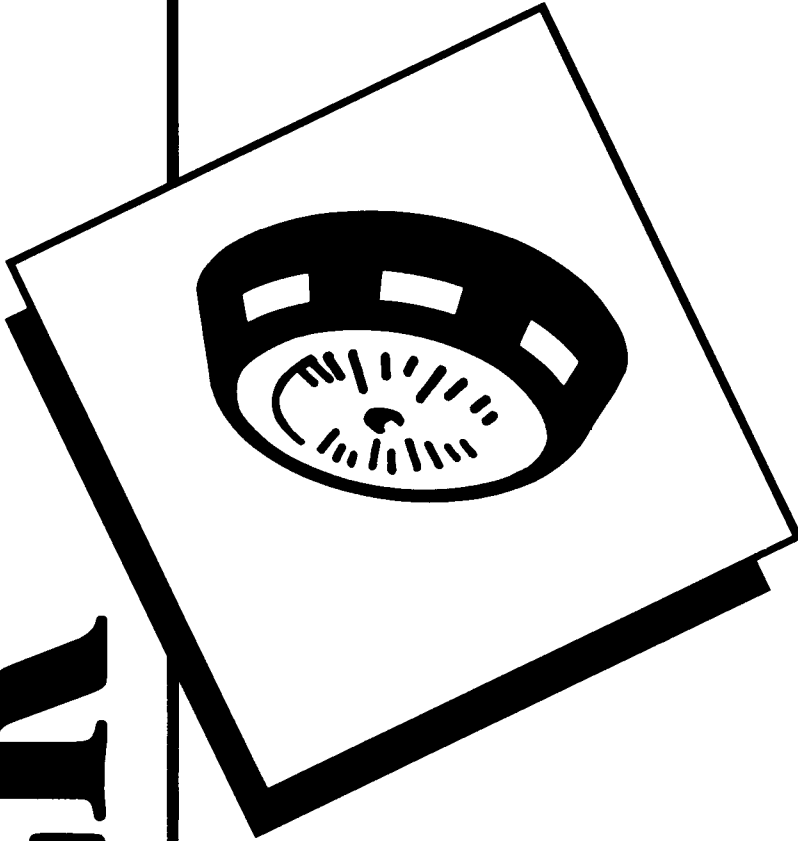


OCTOBER



FOCUS: SMOKE DETECTOR



This action sheet is produced monthly as a part of the Southern California Earthquake Survival Program (ESP). ESP is a regional campaign designed to increase preparedness levels. It is coordinated by eight southern California counties and the Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project.

WHY

Nationwide, fire service experts agree, the introduction of low cost, reliable smoke detectors is one of the most effective breakthroughs in fire safety in recent years. Countless lives have been saved and injuries prevented in homes with properly placed and maintained smoke detectors.

Smoke detectors can also be lifesavers and property protectors in case of an earthquake. After an earthquake a smoke detector could warn you if a fire breaks out in an uninhabited area of the home, or when you are sleeping.

Fire is always a possible danger, and is a probable secondary disaster in the event of an earthquake. Each year residential fires kill about 6,500 people, injure 200,000, and destroy billions of dollars worth of property in the United States. Knowing and following safety measures for fire prevention, detection, and escape are critical to saving lives during such disasters. It is doubly important after an earthquake because regular fire fighters may not be able to get to you in time.

DETECTION

Statistics show that most *fatal* fires in homes occur while the family is sleeping. Smoke and toxic gases are the killers in most home fires rather than flames. *Smoke detectors* (either ionization types or photoelectric detectors powered by electricity or battery) can alert your family while the fire is still small, which may mean the difference between life and death.

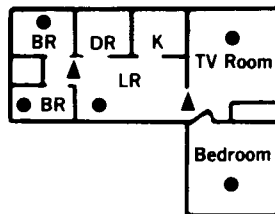
LOCATION

At *minimum*, there should be a smoke detector in the hallways and corridors between the sleeping areas and the rest of the house, and/or a smoke detector in the center of the ceiling directly above each stairway.

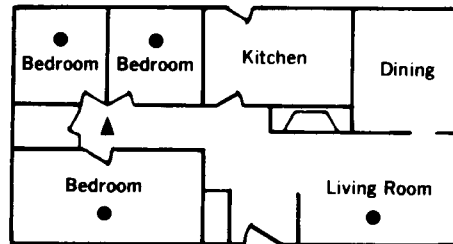
Maximum measures include installing smoke detectors on the wall or ceiling in each sleeping room, as well as the minimum measures. Avoid installation in bathrooms and in areas close to heating and air conditioning vents.

The amount of detection equipment installed in your home or apartment will be determined by the size and floor plan of your living space, your life style, and the cost.

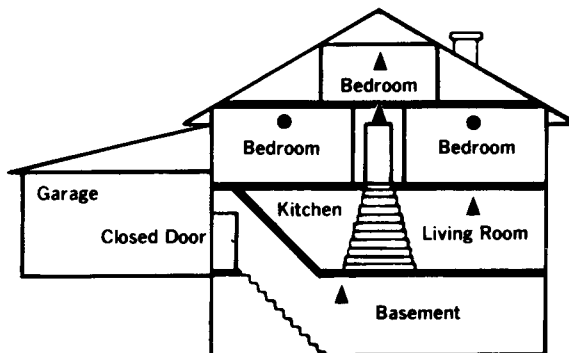
Smoke detectors require minor periodic maintenance, such as dusting and battery replacement. All smoke detectors, whether battery operated or powered by house current, must be tested at least once a month.



Typical Single Floor Installation
Two Bedroom Areas



Typical Single Floor Installation
One Bedroom Area



Typical Multi-Floor Installation

▲ Smoke Detectors for Minimum Protection

● Smoke Detectors for Additional Protection

EXPERIENCE SAYS...

- Replace batteries NOW.
- Mark the date on your calendar to check your smoke detectors.
- If a smoke detector is installed on a wall, the top of the detector should be no closer to the ceiling than 4 inches and no farther from the ceiling than 12 inches.

For more information about smoke detectors and fire safety contact your local Fire Department

Sources: Earthquake Preparedness, Lafferty & Associates, Inc. and Safety and Survival in an Earthquake, American Red Cross

Get it done in '91



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