Smoke Alarms

for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Smoke alarms save lives. However, people who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to depend on the traditional smoke alarm to alert them to a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf (those with profound hearing loss). These alarms use strobe lights to wake the person. Vibration notification appliances, such as pillow or bed shakers, are required and are currently activated by the sound of a smoke alarm.
- As people age, their ability to hear high-pitched sounds decreases. Research from NFPA's Research Foundation showed that older adults are unlikely to respond to alarms with strobe lights.
- Older adults or other people who are hard of hearing (those with mild to severe hearing loss) can use a device that emits a mixed, low-pitched sound. In its current form, this device is activated by the sound of a traditional smoke alarm.
- Always choose equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure everyone in your home understands and reacts to the signal (light, vibration, or sound) used in their situation.
- All smoke alarms should be tested at least monthly. Replace smoke alarms and equipment for people who are deaf or hard or hearing according to manufacturer's recommendations.

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF: Smoke alarms with strobe lights can be purchased through home improvement store websites or by searching the internet for "strobe light smoke alarms." BRK/ First Alert, Gentex and Kidde brands offer smoke alarms with strobe lights. Lifetone (**lifetonesafety.com**) offers a bed/pillow shaker (Lifetone HL™ Bedside Fire Alarm and Clock) that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD OF HEARING: A device (Lifetone HL™ Bedside Fire Alarm and Clock) that will emit a mixed, low-pitched sound, activated by your smoke alarm is available from **lifetonesafety.com**. Make sure any device you use has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

FACTS

- People with a hearing disability may not even hear a smoke alarm.
- Home fire sprinklers increase the chances of surviving a fire.

AND DON'T FORGET…
All smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month using the test button.

www.nfpa.org/disabilities
www.nfpa.org/education