Smoke Alarms

Over the past decade there have been over 6,000 deaths and nearly 115,000 injuries related to fires in the UK.

Currently, 79% of households have smoke alarms. However, only 28% of homes having suffered a fire have an alarm. This shows that those most at risk, i.e. homes having had fires, have not fitted smoke alarms and continue to remain at risk.

Smoke alarms save lives

It only takes a couple of minutes and minimum effort to make sure your alarm is working:

- Once a year: replace the battery;
- Once a week: check the alarm by pressing the test button; and
- Once a year: vacuum and wipe the smoke alarm casing to ensure dust isn't blocking the sensor (for mains wired alarms, switch off first).

Buying a smoke alarm

Smoke alarms can be purchased at DIY stores, hardware and electrical shops, and at some supermarkets. Smoke alarms should meet the British Standard BS 5446 Part 1 and carry the Kitemark.

Fitting an alarm

Smoke alarms should be screwed into the ceiling and should normally be fitted at least 30cm (12") away from any wall or light fitting, as close to the centre of the room, hallway or landing ceiling as possible. Always read the manufacturer's instructions before fitting.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

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