



SMOKE DETECTORS

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY?

There are 2 different technologies used in smoke detectors: ionization and photoelectric. Both types of detectors are supposed to sound the alarm in every type of fire according to Standard 217 of Underwriters Laboratories. However, new information on how these two detectors work in slow-burning, smoldering fires, such as the ones caused by cigarettes or wiring, show that ionization detectors may not sound the alarm on time.

Please see www.wthr.com/global/Story.asp?s=6552929

- You need at least one detector on every level of your home.
- It is smart to also have a detector inside every bedroom.
- You need to know what type of detector(s) you have:

IONIZATION (which operate with a small amount of radioactive material and alarm very quickly in fast, flaming fires with very small smoke particles), or PHOTOELECTRIC (which alarm when the larger smoke particles from a slower-burning, smoldering fire move across a light source in the detector).

- ✓ **IF YOU JUST HAVE IONIZATION DETECTORS, ADD AT LEAST ONE PHOTOELECTRIC DETECTOR ON EACH LEVEL OF YOUR HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**
- ✓ If your ionization detector is 7 years old or older, either replace it with a dual-sensor (ionization and photoelectric) detector at the cost of about \$30 or with a photoelectric detector (about \$15).
- ✓ Smoke detectors save lives: but **only if they have batteries working**, the people know how to get quickly of the house, and the technology for detecting the fire works quickly enough for both flaming an smoldering fires.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL Jan Doherty at 509.625.7058,
Spokane Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau.