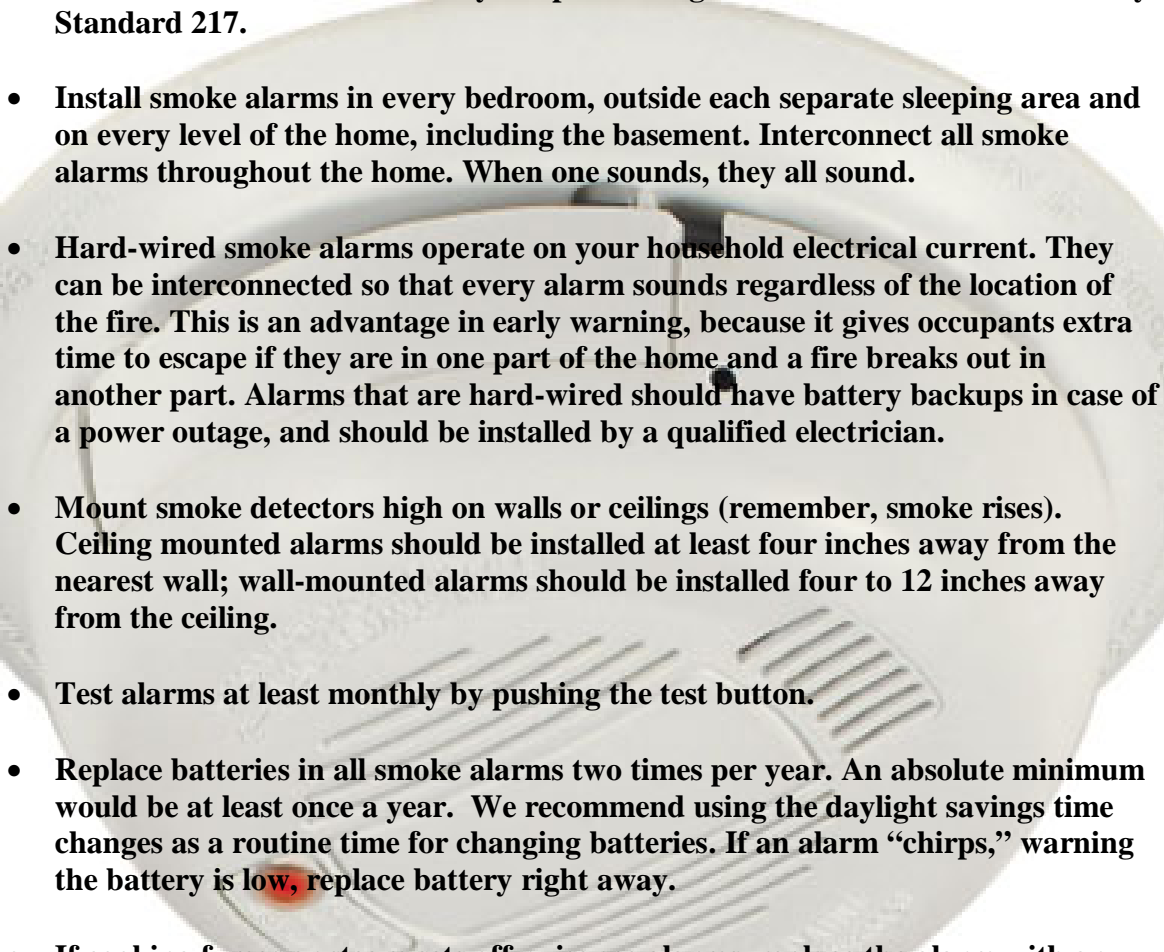


## Ames Fire Department Smoke Detector Fact Sheet

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- **As of April 1, 2010, all new and replacement smoke detector installations are required to have a dual sensor smoke detector. A dual smoke detector contains both a photoelectric and ionization sensor. Consumers should verify that the dual sensor smoke detector they are purchasing meets Underwriters Laboratory Standard 217.**
  - **Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.**
  - **Hard-wired smoke alarms operate on your household electrical current. They can be interconnected so that every alarm sounds regardless of the location of the fire. This is an advantage in early warning, because it gives occupants extra time to escape if they are in one part of the home and a fire breaks out in another part. Alarms that are hard-wired should have battery backups in case of a power outage, and should be installed by a qualified electrician.**
  - **Mount smoke detectors high on walls or ceilings (remember, smoke rises). Ceiling mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.**
  - **Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.**
  - **Replace batteries in all smoke alarms two times per year. An absolute minimum would be at least once a year. We recommend using the daylight savings time changes as a routine time for changing batteries. If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace battery right away.**
  - **If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a “hush” button, or consider relocating that alarm. A “hush” button will reduce the alarm’s sensitivity for a short period of time.**
  - **Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement, in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.**
  - **Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These alarms use strobe lights. Vibration equipment can be added to these alarms.**
  - **Smoke Detectors should be replaced every 8-10 years.**

Information provided by the following:  
The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
Iowa Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Division  
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