Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Every home needs **smoke detectors**! There must be a smoke detector in each bedroom, hallway and floor of a home. If your smoke detector is more than three years old, it is likely an ionization smoke detector. These are a little cheaper and react well to a hot flaming fire. Photoelectric-type detectors are set off by smoke and are very effective at detecting smoldering and smoky fires which are often more deadly. Recommendations:

- **HAVE WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS IN YOUR HOME.**
- When you replace or add smoke alarms, buy ones that use both photoelectric and ionization technology to detect fires.
- To reduce false alarms, put up photoelectric detectors near kitchens.
- Replace batteries twice a year in spring and fall.
- If you rent your home, notify the property owner if you need smoke detectors added or replaced.

**Carbon monoxide** (CO) is colorless and odorless. The only way to know if there is too much in your home is to install a carbon monoxide detector. Symptoms range from nausea, headaches, and shortness of breath, dizziness, unconsciousness and death.

Sources of carbon monoxide include all fuel-burning appliances (gas stoves, dryers, and water heaters) as well as fireplaces, barbeques, and cars. Recommendations:

- Have a professional maintain all heating systems and gas appliances.
- Install, a ceiling/wall or outlet mounted detector, both of which are effective, if put up according to manufacturer instructions.
- Combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are effective.
- Replace batteries twice a year in spring and fall.

**Shopping Tip:** *Buy a smoke detector that uses both photoelectric and ionization technology.*

**Carbon Monoxide Detector Tips**

If a carbon monoxide alarm goes off, LEAVE YOUR HOME, get to fresh air, and call 911.

- Install a carbon monoxide detector on each floor.
- Interior remodeling projects over $1,000 require installation of carbon monoxide detectors.
- Call your gas company for additional info and services.