

Life-Saving Devices & Missing Batteries

U.S. Navy Regional Safety Office, Virginia Beach VA

"Working smoke (and carbon monoxide) alarms in your home can mean the difference between life and death. But these life-saving devices are only effective when they're working properly. Smoke **alarms** with **batteries** that are dead, disconnected, or **missing** can't alert you to the dangers of smoke and fire."

City of Johnson City, TN

"Although smoke **alarms** are present in 95 percent of American homes, 20 percent do not work, mostly because of dead or **missing batteries**. That means roughly 19 million homes are at risk due to non-working smoke alarms."

City of Fresno, CA

"Many low-income families are unable to afford batteries for their smoke alarms. These same households often rely on poorly installed, maintained or misused portable or area heating equipment - a main cause of fatal home fires."

Baltimore County, Towson, MD

"Older people often fail to maintain smoke alarms by testing them and replacing the batteries, county investigators say. In homes with small children, **families often rob** smoke alarms of their 9-volt **batteries** when they need a battery for a toy."



Fire Marshal's Office Coldwater, MI

"Never 'borrow' a battery from a smoke alarm. Smoke **alarms** can't warn you of fire if their **batteries** are **missing** or have been disconnected."

Fireproof Children Prevention First

"Approximately 70% of home-fire fatalities occur in houses with non-working smoke alarms. Non-working smoke **alarms** most often have **missing**, dead, or disconnected **batteries**."

State Fire Marshall, AK

"Since January 1, 2004, 5 fire deaths have already occurred and Alaskans will need to be extra vigilant if they want to keep the state's numbers in the single digits this year. In four of the five deaths a smoke **alarm** was either not present or non-functional due to a **missing battery**."

Ventura County Fire Department, Camarillo, CA

"An average of three children a day die in home fires and 80 percent of those occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Nonworking smoke alarms rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. Most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke **alarms** is worn or **missing batteries**."

National Fire Protection Association

"A candle left burning in the living room of a wood-frame house ignited combustibles, and heat and smoke spread to the second floor, where it fatally injured three sleeping boys. Smoke **alarms** on the second floor and in the basement were useless because their **batteries were missing**."