

Smoke Alarms: Make them work for you!

Essay by Owen Ives

5th grade at Veterans Park Elementary

Have you ever found yourself walking into a room thinking “What do smoke detectors do?” Probably not, but you may think that’s a simple question and are thinking to yourself, “To detect smoke, of course.” But there’s more to it than meets the eye. To start, how do they work or why do we use them? Well, in this essay I will be going over all of those questions.

How do they work?

One major question most people don’t know the answer to is “**How do they work?**” Well, smoke is made up of tiny particles or bits, most smoke alarms have tiny lights inside of them, and if the smoke particles get in the alarm is activated. That’s not all, though; alarm uses chemicals, which give out an particles inside the detector change the electrical charge and this sets off the beeping noise to alert those nearby of the



way of the lights, the another type of smoke electrical charge. Smoke amount and type of alarm, making a loud danger.

Why do we use them?

Many people all around the world use them every day. Why? The main reason people use smoke detectors is to sense smoke and provide an early warning of a fire to ensure the safety of individuals. In other words, smoke detectors are the best way to indicate a fire and give an early warning to the start of a fire, which gives people time to get out of the area and to somewhere safe.

What do you do if a smoke alarm goes off?

What should you do if one of your smoke alarms goes off? One thing you can do is make a home fire escape plan. A fire escape plan works like this. First, draw a map of your home (show all windows and doors!) Next, go to each room and find two ways to get out. Then make sure all windows and doors open easily. Finally, practice a home “fire drill every once in a while.” Also make sure everyone knows how to call the fire department’s emergency 911 number once safely outside the building.

Smoke Alarm Facts!

- The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.
- In 1915, the chance of dying in a home fire was one in ten, but today it's one in one hundred.
- From 2018 to 2022, 59% of home fire deaths were in properties with no smoke alarms or smoke alarms that didn't work.
- Three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- There's an average of 358,300 home-based fires every year!



In conclusion, smoke detectors use a complex system to provide a warning in the case of a fire. They're keeping us safe every day and provide a sense of safety.

