

## Other Important Phone Numbers

Trash & Recycling	703-435-6860
Community Development	703-787-7380
Parks & Recreation	703-435-6868
Public Information	703-435-6800
Police (Non-Emergency)	703-435-6846
Water/Sewer	703-435-6814
Revenue Office	703-435-6813
FFX Co. Fire Marshal	703-246-4800
Herndon Fire Station #4	703-437-1233

**Incase of Emergency Dial 911**

Town of Herndon, Virginia  
Building Inspection Section  
777 Lynn Street, 2nd Floor  
Herndon, VA 20170

[www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov)

**Herndon**  
VIRGINIA



## SMOKE ALARMS

**BUILDING INSPECTIONS**

**703-435-6850**

**[buildinginspections@herndon-va.gov](mailto:buildinginspections@herndon-va.gov)**

## What You Need To Know

### The Impact of Smoke Alarms

In the 1960's, the average U.S. citizen had never heard of a smoke alarm. By the mid 1980's, laws requiring that alarms be placed in all new and existing residences existed in 38 states and thousands of municipalities nationwide. By 1995, an estimated 93% of all American homes (single, multi-family, apartments, nursing homes, dormitories, etc.) were equipped with alarms. Smoke alarm provisions have been adopted by all of the modern building code organizations.

### Still A Major Problem

Although 13 out of every 14 homes have at least one smoke alarm, almost half of home fires and 3/5 of fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms. Thousands of people die each year in home fires where smoke alarms are not present. In addition, there are now more homes with smoke alarms that don't work than homes without smoke alarms at all. These poorly maintained units create a false sense of security among occupants. Approximately 1/3 of homes with smoke alarms that experience fires have smoke alarms that aren't working, and hundreds of people die each year in these fires.

Smoke alarms are the most important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal so you and your family can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety features you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family, and your home.



## Where Do I Put Them?

Install smoke alarm on every level of your home, all sleeping rooms, and the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety install smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping rooms. Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling or 6 to 8 inches below the ceiling on side walls. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise. Installing your smoke alarm at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

### Are smoke alarms hard to install?

Not a bit! In most cases all you will need is a screwdriver. Many brands are self-adhesive and will automatically stick to the wall or ceiling. However, be sure to follow the directions from the manufacturer because each brand is different. Some fire departments will install a smoke alarm in your home for you. Call the non-emergency number at your local fire department if you have problems installing a smoke alarm. Smoke alarms that are "hard-wired" should be installed by a licensed electrical contractor.

