



## Smoke Alarms

### Smoke Alarm Program

The Township of Cramahe Fire Department Smoke Alarm Program provides and/or installs smoke alarms free of charge to homeowners in specific residential communities around Cramahe Township.

Smoke alarms are your best line of defense against fire and can cut the risk of fatality in a house fire nearly in half.

### Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

**Smoke Alarms save lives. But a smoke alarm can't save your life if it isn't working.**

Smoke alarms, when properly installed, tested, and maintained, provide the best early warning system in the event of a house fire. Detection and warning of smoke and fire saves lives and reduces damages to home and personal belongings.

Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.

People who die in home fires, often die from breathing in smoke and toxic gases emitted from fire. These poisonous gases can render a person confused, disoriented or even unconscious after only a few breaths. Toxic effects may overcome residents before they have time to escape or even wake up from sleeping.

A smoke alarm combines smoke detection and alarm sounding in one unit.

### What you should know

Install smoke alarms: it's the law! Every home in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. Homeowners: must install and maintain smoke alarms on every storey of their home and outside sleeping areas.

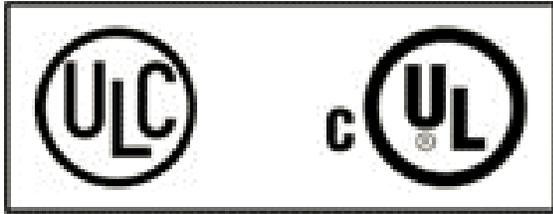
Landlord: must ensure their rental properties comply with the law.

Tenants: contact your landlord immediately if you do not have the required number of smoke alarms.

Test smoke alarms once a month by pressing the alarm's test button and replace the batteries of each smoke alarm as per manufacturer's instructions.

Replace smoke alarms after 10 years. Or, if you discover a smoke alarm is defective or broken after testing, replace it.

When purchasing a smoke alarm, look for a product that has been manufactured and tested to an acceptable standard, indicated by a marking for the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) or Underwriters Laboratories Incorporated (cUL).



### How to tell if your smoke alarm is expired

Smoke alarms expire after 10 years. To find out how old your smoke alarm is follow these steps.

1. Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.
2. Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture..
3. If it was made less than 10 years ago, put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall.
4. If it was made 10 or more years ago or you cannot find the manufacture date, replace the alarm with a new one.

Having trouble finding the date? Sparky can teach you how if you watch [this video](#).



Most household smoke alarms are battery powered, and studies show that dead, disconnected, or missing batteries are the principle cause of non-working smoke alarms. Some tips to follow are:

- Smoke alarms may be powered by battery (9 volt), hard wired to your home electrical system, or hard-wired to your home with a battery backup. Regardless of how a smoke alarm is powered, it should be replaced after 10 years.

- Test your smoke alarm's batteries once a month and replace any battery too weak to sound the alarm.
- Sleep with bedroom doors closed. Test smoke alarms to ensure you and your family will be able to hear and wake-up at the sound of the alarm and if not, install smoke alarms inside bedrooms to ensure residents will hear when sleeping.
- Regular vacuuming with a soft bristle attachment can help keep a smoke alarm working properly. Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning.
- Do not paint or decorate smoke alarms. Hard-wired smoke alarms, which operate on your household electrical current, can be interconnected so that every smoke alarm sounds when smoke is detected by just one alarm. This is an advantage, because residents are given more 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 back-ups in case of power outage.

**Installation Information:**

- Install all alarms as per the manufacturer's recommendations, keeping in mind the required clearances.
- Installing smoke alarms on the ceiling is recommended as smoke, heat, and combustion products rise to the ceiling and spread horizontally.

When your smoke alarm is activated without the presence of smoke or fire, it is called a 'nuisance alarm'. This may happen because the smoke alarm needs to be cleaned or is too close to kitchen appliances which emit smoke or steam and set the smoke alarm off. Consider relocating the smoke alarm further away from kitchens and bathrooms or install a smoke alarm with a "hush" feature which allows for temporary silencing of the alarm.

**Never borrow batteries from a smoke alarm to use another device.**

For further information or to set a Smoke Alarm appointment please contact the Township of Cramahe Fire Department at 905-355-1219.