



BUMPASS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Smoke Alarm Care Card

What the beeps mean and how to keep every alarm working

WHAT THE SOUND MEANS

- ☐ One chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means a low battery: replace it now.
- ☐ Chirping after a new battery: the alarm is worn out. Replace the alarm.
- ☐ Three loud beeps, repeating: smoke or fire. Get out, call 911, stay out.

EVERY MONTH

- ☐ Press the test button on every alarm.
- ☐ Make sure everyone knows the sound and where to go.

EVERY YEAR

- ☐ Replace 9-volt batteries and the backup batteries in hardwired alarms.
- ☐ Write the date you changed them here: _____

EVERY 10 YEARS

- ☐ Replace each alarm 10 years from the manufacture date on its back.
- ☐ Alarm locations and manufacture dates: _____

EMERGENCY: CALL 911. Get out first, then call.

Non-emergency questions: 540-872-2400 | bumpassfire.org/safety/smoke-alarm-chirping

Sources: NFPA, Smoke alarms; USFA, Smoke Alarms; NFPA, Installing and maintaining smoke alarms.