



**Crystal Park Volunteer Fire Department
#2 Crystal Park Road
Manitou Springs, CO 80829**



Subject: Escape Drills and Smoke Detector Information

Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors provide the critical early warning during a fire that helps you and your family escape to safety. It could be a matter of life or death, so take a moment *monthly* to maintain and test your smoke detectors. While cleaning and maintaining your smoke detectors, take a moment to review their locations. The National Fire Protection Association recommends having smoke detectors outside of every sleeping area and on every level.

Smoke Detectors need to be dusted and cleaned to ensure adequate air flow to the unit. Do not attempt to take the smoke detector apart to clean it. Next, press the test button. This tests the alarm circuitry to show that your smoke detector is capable of sounding the alarm. This is also a good time to practice your escape plan. Finally, check when the batteries were last replaced in your alarm. If they are over 6 months old, it is recommended they be replaced. We recommend replacing your batteries when Daylight Saving Time begins and ends.

If your smoke detectors are over 10 years old, it is time to replace them. Over time, smoke detectors become less sensitive, and after 10 years, a smoke detector has a 30% probability of failure. New smoke detectors cost less than \$10 dollars, and such a small investment may save you or your family's life.

Proper Smoke Detector Location

