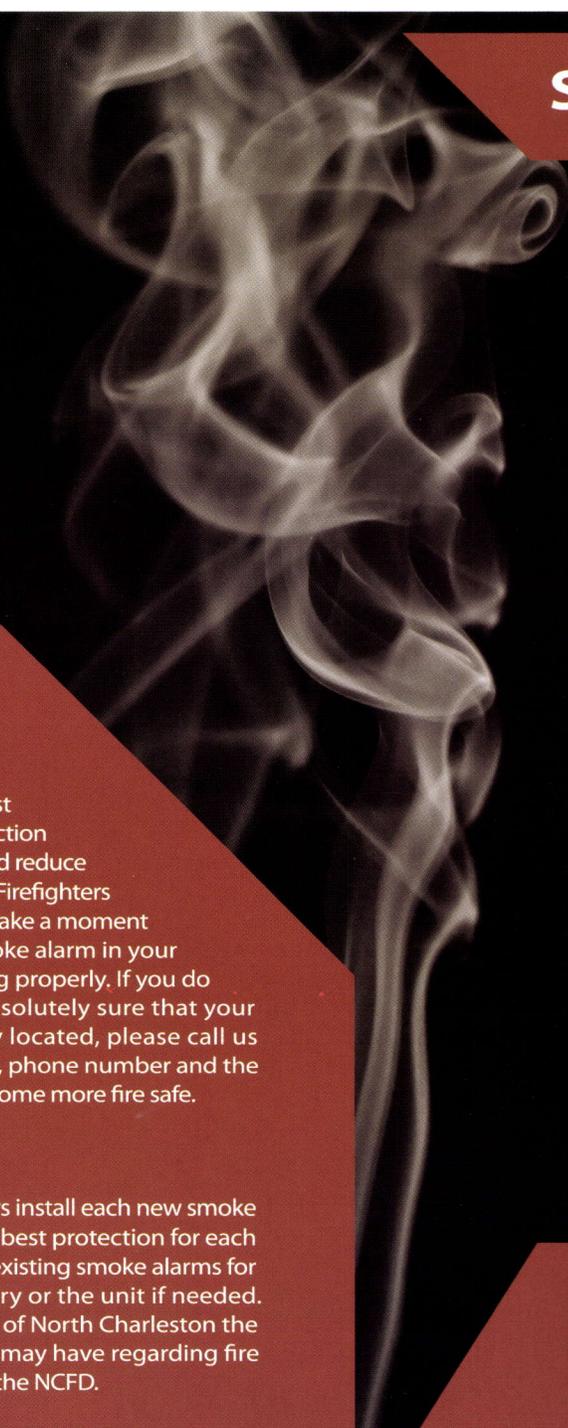




**Smoke Alarm  
Assistance Program**



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## Proven Protection

A working smoke alarm may be the single best product you can have to protect you and your family from most fire-related injuries and death. Early detection of a fire may also reduce property loss and reduce the risk of injury to the North Charleston Firefighters who come to extinguish the fire. Please take a moment right now to check that you have a smoke alarm in your home and test it to see that it is working properly. If you do not have a smoke alarm or are not absolutely sure that your smoke alarm is working and properly located, please call us today. Let us know your name, address, phone number and the best time to come help you make your home more fire safe.

## A Better Way

Professional North Charleston Firefighters install each new smoke alarm in a location that will provide the best protection for each individual home. They test and inspect existing smoke alarms for proper function and replace the battery or the unit if needed. This program also provides the citizens of North Charleston the opportunity to ask any questions they may have regarding fire safety or the many services provided by the NCFD.



## Steps for Installation & Maintenance

### **1** Where to Buy:

Many hardware, home supply, or general merchandise stores carry smoke alarms. The prices vary from \$5 to \$30. If you are unsure where to buy one in your community, call the North Charleston Fire Department at (843) 740-2616 and they will provide you with some suggestions.

### **3** Test:

Test your smoke alarm at least once a month by pushing the test button until the alarm sounds. If the alarm does not sound, replace the battery and test again. Do not disable your smoke alarm due to cooking or other non-fire causes. You may not remember to put the batteries back in the alarm after cooking. Instead, clear the air by waving a towel near the alarm, leaving the batteries in place.

### **2** How to Install:

In most cases all you will need is a screwdriver. Many brands are self-adhesive and will stick to the wall or ceiling. Be sure to follow the directions from the manufacturer because each brand is different. Install smoke alarms in every room of your home, at a minimum, on every level of your home, including the basement.

### **4** Replace Batteries:

Nine-volt batteries need to be replaced at least once a year. If the alarm begins to make a "chirping" noise, it is telling you that the battery is weak and needs replacing. Use only the type of batteries recommended by the smoke alarm manufacturer. Smoke alarm units should be replaced every 10 years.

**North Charleston Fire Department**  
"Proudly We Serve"



With a staff of more than 200 full-time, professional firefighters, the North Charleston Fire Department provides fire protection to the third largest city in the state of South Carolina. In 2005 the NCFD responded to more than 4,800 emergency calls for fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials control and emergency medical care.

Shirley Simmons and her family were sleeping early in the morning on March 24th, 2006 when an electrical fire started in the wall of their home on Ranger Drive. As the fire began to grow and deadly smoke began to fill the house, their smoke alarm sounded. The piercing sound woke them up and Shirley and her children all escaped without injury. They called 911 and North Charleston Firefighters quickly came and extinguished the fire. Some of the same firefighters from Station #7 had installed the smoke alarm just one week earlier on March 17th, 2006 as part of the smoke alarm assistance program.



"If it wasn't for that smoke alarm the house would be gone, and we would be too."

The NCFD Smoke Alarm Program is the recipient of these prestigious awards:

The 2007 Rolf H. Jensen Memorial Education Grant  
from the National Fire Protection Association

The 2006 Richard S. Campbell Award  
in Public Fire Safety Education  
from the South Carolina State Association of Fire Chiefs

## **North Charleston Fire Department**

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