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It's Time to Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries

With the time change each spring and fall, the batteries in your smoke detectors need to be changed. This ensures that your detectors are powered up and ready in case of an emergency. The risk of dying in a residential fire is cut in half in houses with working smoke detectors. More than half of all residential fire-related deaths involved homes where smoke alarms didn't work or weren't installed.

Also, smoke detectors need to be replaced when they are between five and ten years old, whether they are battery powered or wired into your home or office. Like everything else, smoke detectors wear out. Accumulated dust and grime, as well as insect husks and webs, make them less sensitive to smoke particles. As a result, the alarm may fail to sound when it matters most.

Smoke can be detected either optically (photoelectric) or by physical process (ionization). Detectors may use one or both sensing methods. A 2004 National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) report concluded that "Smoke alarms of either the ionization type or the photoelectric type consistently provided time for occupants to escape from most residential fires," and, "Consistent with prior findings, ionization type alarms provided somewhat better response to flaming fires than photoelectric alarms (57 to 62 seconds faster response), and photoelectric alarms provided (often) considerably faster response to smoldering fires than ionization type alarms (47 to 53 minutes faster response).

Smoke alarm placement The United States NFPA code requires smoke detectors on every habitable level of a dwelling and within the vicinity of all bedrooms. A dozen or more detectors may be connected via wiring or wirelessly such that if one detects smoke, the alarms will sound on all the detectors in the network, improving the likelihood that occupants will be alerted even if smoke is detected far from their location.

History of the smoke detector The first automatic electric fire alarm was patented in 1890 by Francis Robbins Upton, an associate of Thomas Edison. In 1902, George Andrew Darby patented the first European electrical heat detector in Birmingham, England. In the late 1930s, Swiss physicist Walter Jaeger attempted to invent a sensor for poison gas. He expected the gas entering the sensor to bind to ionized air molecules and thereby alter an electric current in a circuit of the instrument. However, his device did not achieve its purpose as small concentrations of gas did not affect the sensor's conductivity. Frustrated, Jaeger lit a cigarette and was surprised to notice that a meter on the instrument had registered a drop in current. Unlike poison gas, the smoke particles from his cigarette were able to alter the circuit's current. Jaeger's experiment was one of the developments that paved the way for the modern smoke detector. In 1939, Swiss physicist Ernst Meili devised an ionization chamber device capable of detecting combustible gases in mines. He also invented a cold cathode tube that could amplify the small signal generated by the detection mechanism so that it was strong enough to activate an alarm.

In 1951, ionization smoke detectors were first sold in the United States. In the following years, they were used only in major commercial and industrial facilities due to their large size and high cost. In 1955, simple "fire detectors" for homes were developed, which detected high temperatures. In 1963, The United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC) granted the first license to distribute smoke detectors that used radioactive material.

In 1965, the first low-cost smoke detector for domestic use was developed by Duane D. Pearsall and Stanley Bennett Peterson. It was an individual, replaceable, battery-powered unit that could be easily installed. The "SmokeGard 700" was beehive-shaped, fire-resistant, and made of steel. The company began mass-producing these units in 1975. Studies in the 1960s determined that smoke detectors respond to fires much faster than heat detectors.

The first single-station smoke detector was invented in 1970 and was brought out the next year. It was an ionization detector powered by a single 9-volt battery. It cost about \$125 (equivalent to \$872.22 in 2021) and sold at a rate of a few hundred thousand units per year. Several developments in smoke detector technology occurred between 1971 and 1976, including the replacement of cold-cathode tubes with solid-state electronics. This greatly reduced the detectors' cost and size, and made it possible to monitor battery life. The previous alarm horns which required special batteries were replaced with horns that were more energy-efficient and allowed the use of widely available batteries. These detectors could also function with smaller amounts of radioactive source material, and the sensing chamber and smoke detector enclosure were redesigned to make operation more effective. The rechargeable batteries were often replaced by a pair of AA batteries along with a plastic shell encasing the detector.

The photoelectric (optical) smoke detector was invented by Donald Steele and Robert Emmark from Electro Signal Lab and patented in 1972.

In 1995, the 10-year-lithium-battery-powered smoke alarm was introduced.



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Dr. Andrew Tran

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About Dr. Andrew Tran Dr. Tran grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. He obtained his bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from UNC Charlotte. He attended and earned his DDS degree at the UNC School of Dentistry, where he met his wife, Dr. Zuleika Javed. After working as an associate dentist with various dental practices, Dr. Tran and Dr. Javed established Serene Dental Spa. Their goal with both Serene Dental Spa and Marshville Family Dentistry is to remove patients' dental anxieties so they can achieve beautiful, healthy smiles. They provide dental services in a serene spa-like environment with a caring, compassionate staff.

In his spare time, Dr. Tran mentors kids in his youth group and volunteers with the Mission of Mercy Clinic. He also indulges his inner foodie through cooking, trying out restaurants, and watching the Food Network. Dr. Tran enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing ultimate frisbee, exercising, seeing movies, riding motorcycles, and playing with his dogs (Mocha, Latte, and Punk).

Anson Schools Sports Update

- Anson High School Varsity Baseball**
- Monday, March 6 - Anson lost to Pageland-Central 6-5. Stanley Parker 1-3, Josh Lomax 2-3, Elijah Stewart 1-4 2 RBI, Luke Hyatt 1-4, Hunter Ratliff 1-2.
 - Wednesday, March 8 - Anson lost to Marlboro County 14-2. Isaiah Hatcher 1-3, Mac Brock 1-2, Stanley Parker 1-2.
 - Saturday, March 11 - Anson lost to Chesterfield 7-2. Stanley Parker 2-3 2 RBI, Mac Brock 1-3, Josh Lomas 1-2, Luke Hyatt 1-4.
- Anson High School Junior Varsity Baseball**
- Wednesday, March 8 - Anson beat Marlboro County 6-1. Jackson Burr 1-2, Hunter Ratliff 2-4, Jase Martin 1-3 & Winning Pitcher.
 - Thursday, March 9 - Anson lost to Chesterfield 14-12. Jase Martin 1-3, Dock Hyatt 1-3, Jackson Stinson 1-4.

Funny, Random & Weird Holidays this Week

- March 16 Thursday - Absolutely Incredible Kid Day & Every Thing You Do is Right Day
- March 17 Friday - Submarine Day
- March 18 Saturday - Awkward Moments Day
- March 19 Sunday - Let's Laugh Day
- March 20 Monday - World Storytelling Day & Proposal Day
- March 21 Tuesday - Common Courtesy Day
- March 22 Wednesday - International Goof Off Day

COVID-19 Information

To stay up to date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit [covid19.ncdhhs.gov](https://www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov) or text COVIDNC to 898211. Call 2-1-1 (or 888-892-1162) for general questions or for help finding human services resources in your community.

For a national perspective, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.

For a world-wide perspective, visit the World Health Organization at www.who.int.

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