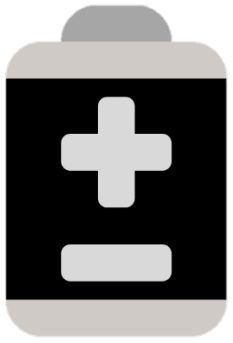


# How to Prevent False Alarm Fire Calls



1

## Regular Maintenance

**Smoke alarms should be tested** once a month and every time you change the batteries.

**Replace your smoke alarm batteries** with fresh ones in the spring and fall when you set your clocks back or ahead by one hour for daylight savings.

**A smoke alarm should be replaced** if it is more than 10 years old.

2

## Proper Placement

**Smoke alarms should be at least 10 feet away** from the stove and oven.

**Smoke alarms should not be placed** in bathrooms or garages to avoid shower steam and dust.

**Research shows** it's best to have an interconnected smoke alarm in every bedroom.

3

## Correct Contact Information

**Your alarm monitoring company should** have your most up-to-date contact information.

**Contact your fire monitoring company before** you do maintenance, test or repair your smoke alarm.

4

## If Your Smoke Alarm is Accidentally Triggered

**Call your alarm monitoring company immediately** to cancel the false alarm and prevent fire crews from being dispatched.

**Some monitoring companies will try calling you** before dialling 911 to ensure the alarm is a real emergency. Be sure to answer their call right away.

The Town of Ponoka is asking for the help of local citizens in reducing the number of false alarm fire calls. In 2019, almost half of all emergency fire calls in Ponoka were due to false alarms – a total of 77 false alarm calls.

False alarms are a serious safety issue because firefighters and equipment have to be sent to a situation where they aren't needed, which makes them potentially unavailable for a true emergency if one were to happen at the same time as a false alarm.