

**AVENBURY LAKES
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE
SAVINGS & SAFETY TIPS**

#7

Smoke & carbon monoxide alarms, battery operated thermostats and battery keypad garage door openers.

There have been several questions recently about what to do if your smoke alarm or CO2 detector sounds in the middle of the night.

Always check for any smoke or unusual odor and make sure that there's not a real problem. Don't just assume that the battery back-up has failed.

Your next step would be to open the battery access door, remove the battery and replace it with a new nine volt battery. That will solve your problem 98% of the time. If you don't have a spare battery, pull back on the latch catch and remove the alarm from the hard wiring until you can get some nine volt batteries.

If the system still sounds an alarm after a new battery has been installed, pressing the test button will sometimes reset the system. Another good thing to do when replacing a battery is to press the test button for 10-15 seconds while the battery is out to clear any static electric build up.

If changing the battery and doing all the procedures above does not solve the problem and you've checked throughout your home and everything seems to be OK, you probably have a defective detector. If that's the case you would need to replace the detector.

If you decide to install a new detector yourself, be sure you shut off the breaker in the electrical panel that serves that detector before doing anything else. The new detector does not need to be the same make, but according to code it must be a hard wired unit.

When replacing smoke/CO alarms, first check the date on the back of the alarm. If it is more than 10 years old, it should be replaced. Count the number of smoke alarms you have, usually there are two in the house, plus one in the basement if you have one. One should be a smoke/CO alarm, the others can be smoke only.

Two brands that are available are **CODE ONE** and **BRK** available at Home Depot and at Lowes.

All detectors are hard-wired to your electrical system and if you are not physically able or do not want to install a new hard-wired detector because of the electrical connections involved, **Call the Business Office at 937-9441 and submit a request to have the Neighbor to Neighbor volunteers do the installation.** There is no charge for this service except the cost of the new detector.

A good rule of thumb is to change all batteries annually even if they are still working. Programmable thermostats usually take a size AA or AAA. CO2 or smoke detectors and keyless entry pads take a nine volt battery. It's a small price to pay for peace of mind.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Avenbury Business Office, at 937-9441. The Business Office has a list of contractors and or volunteers that can address any of the above concerns if needed.