ACTION #1
Make the first Saturday of each month “Smoke Alarm Saturday”!
A working smoke alarm will clue you in that there is a fire and you need to escape. Fire moves fast. You and your family could have only minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.
- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test all of your smoke alarms by pushing the test button. If it makes a loud beep, beep, beep sound, you know it’s working. If there is no sound or the sound is low, it’s time to replace the battery.
- If the smoke alarm is older than 10 years old, you need to replace the whole unit.
- If your smoke alarm makes a “chirp,” that means it needs a new battery. Change the battery right away.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the alarm and what to do when it sounds. (See ACTION #2.)

ACTION #2
Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year!
Having a home fire escape plan will make sure everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds so they can get out safely.
- Draw a map of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure they are part of the plan.
- Make sure all escape routes are clear and that doors and windows open easily.
- Pick an outside meeting place (something permanent like a neighbor’s house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) that is a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet.
- Everyone in the home should know the fire department’s emergency number and how to call once they are safely outside.
- Practice! Practice! Practice! Practice day and nighttime home fire drills. Share your home escape plans with overnight guests.

REMEMBER:
When You Hear a Beep, Get On Your Feet!
Get out and stay out. Call 9-1-1 from your outside meeting place.

Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!
A chirping alarm needs attention. Replace the batteries or the entire alarm if it is older than 10 years old. If you don’t remember how old it is, replace it.