



Residential Smoke Detector Recommendation for the General Public of the State of Ohio

The recommendation below is the culmination of over two years of research by Northeast Ohio Fire Officials of all material available on smoke detector performance. Officials acknowledge that smoke detector sensor technology is a complex subject. The North Eastern Ohio Fire Prevention Association (NEOFPA) has interpreted the fire safety technical information, evaluated it, and is translating it into a format that is easy to understand and remember. Therefore, the goal of this recommendation is to simplify the process of selecting the best smoke detector that will provide the best overall protection.

The undersigned Fire Service Organizations of the State of Ohio recommend that the following smoke detector guidelines be communicated universally throughout the State:

Photoelectric  smoke detectors should be placed, at a minimum, on every floor level including the basement, inside every sleeping room, and outside of every sleeping area of all dwellings.

Interconnected Photoelectric  smoke detectors, either wired or wireless, should be strongly considered. With interconnected detectors, when one smoke detector sounds, all other smoke detectors in the home sound as well, which creates an early warning to occupants in all areas and allows as much time as possible to escape.

To aid in choosing the correct smoke detector, consumers should be directed to look for the word *Photoelectric* or the symbol  on the packaging or description of smoke detectors.

Photoelectric:



Photoelectric technology is generally more sensitive than ionization technology at detecting large particles which tend to be produced in greater amounts by smoldering fires—which may smolder for hours before bursting into flames. Sources of these fires may include cigarettes burning in couches or bedding.

This recommendation does not change any other smoke detector (Ionization) installation and maintenance guidelines presented in currently available materials.

Having both technologies doesn't hurt anyone's chances of surviving a fire and so such a measure could be considered. Keep in mind that dual-sensing detectors may be less sensitive and or more prone to nuisance alarms; therefore separate detectors should be encouraged in situations where both technologies are wanted.

The material researched that led to this recommendation can be found at the North Eastern Ohio Fire Prevention Association's website, www.NEOFPA.org, and at the World Fire Safety Foundation's website, www.thewfsf.org.

NORTH EASTERN OHIO FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

FIRE DATA EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION

OHIO FIRE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION