



Public Safety Building, 312 E. Fifth St.
Muscatine, IA 52761
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FIRE DEPARTMENT

SMOKE ALARMS

- Only purchase smoke alarms that are listed by UL and carry the UL mark on packaging.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Make sure there is an alarm near every sleeping area.
- Smoke rises, so alarms should be mounted high on walls or ceilings. Ceiling mounted alarms should be installed at least 4 inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed 4 to 12 inches away from the ceiling.
- Choose an installation that is well away from the path of steam from bathrooms and cooking vapors from the kitchen, which can result in false, or nuisance alarms.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month, following the manufacture's instructions, which typically involves pushing the "test" button on the face of the alarm cover. Install fresh batteries at least once a year.
- The Home Safety Council recommends using hard-wired, interconnected smoke alarms with battery back-up. These alarms run on your household wiring and are tied in together so that if one alarm operates, they all signal together.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced at least once every 10 years.

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**