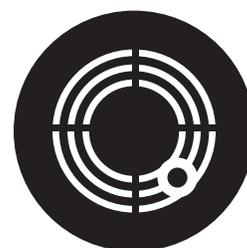# Wildfires

How to Choose and Install a Smoke Alarm

When it comes to home fire safety, preparation is vital. By assessing your fire risks, installing working smoke alarms and developing a smart evacuation plan, you avoid leaving the safety of your family to chance.

- **Brand name only.** Do not purchase brands that are not labeled with a recognizable manufacturer or test lab name.

- **Replace fire alarms.** Even if they are still working, replace any fire alarms that are more than 10 years old.

- **Photoelectric and ionized alarms.** Photoelectric alarms are more sensitive to smoldering fires, while ionization alarms are more sensitive to flaming fires. It's best to have a combination of both types of alarms in your house.

- **Alarms go on the ceiling.** Smoke rises, so it is important to install alarms on ceilings, at least four inches from the nearest wall or 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling, if you are installing the alarm on a wall.

- **You can't have too many alarms.** Install smoke alarms in every room of your house and every hallway, including the basement.

- **Interconnected detection.** Consider an interconnected detection system that sounds all alarms if one goes off, thereby ensuring you will hear the alarm no matter where you are in your home.

For more information about preparing for a wildfire, please visit www.libertymutual.com/prepare.

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