



Fact Sheet 6

Testing of smoke alarms

Testing of smoke alarms

Testing

There is nothing more frightening than being caught inside a burning house. It's a situation no-one wants to have to face, but fire services fight thousands of fires in buildings every year. Sadly, not everyone gets out safely. To escape a house fire, early warning is vital, that's why you need a smoke alarm.

- Smoke alarms are **mandatory** in all new homes, and also in all existing homes in the NT, NSW, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.
- There are **two types** of smoke alarms - photoelectric and ionisation. If you're unsure which type you have, look on the base. A radiation symbol means it's an ionisation model.
- **Photoelectric smoke alarms** are the best for detecting smouldering fires - installing at least one of these type is mandatory in the Northern Territory.

A smoke alarm must be tested in the following way:

- (a) for an alarm that can be tested by pressing a button or other device to indicate whether the alarm is capable of detecting smoke – by pressing the button or other device;
- (b) otherwise – by testing the alarm in the way stated in the manufacturer's instructions.

It is good practice to clean your smoke alarm when testing it.

