Who Will Hear Your Smoke Alarm When You Are Away?

Honeywell
A monitored system will.

You’re ready to leave on vacation and you’ve thought of everything. The car has been serviced, the newspaper stopped and the mail held at the post office. All that’s left is to activate the security system and you’re on your way. That’s everything. Well, almost everything.

Your house may now be secure from break-ins, but what about fire, the potential danger within? You may already have battery or AC powered smoke detectors, but who would hear them if you’re not there? If they are not connected to your security system and are not monitored, who would call the fire department before everything you cherish is destroyed?

Fire can strike anyone, anywhere, anytime. A burglar won’t steal your family photo albums, but a fire will. Jewelry can be replaced, but baby pictures can’t. Even though you have a monitored security system, without monitored smoke detectors, your home will never be secure against one of the most dangerous intruders. Now, you can have the complete protection you need with a series of smoke detectors that can be monitored and easily integrated into most new or existing Honeywell security systems. The same system that guards your home’s security will guard your home against fire. Turn your security system into one that not only monitors against intruders that can be frightened away, but also one that can’t—fire.

Monitored smoke detectors protect you even when you’re not on vacation:
- While you’re at work or at school
- While you’re out for the evening
- When teenagers are home alone
- In homes where there are elderly, disabled or hearing impaired
- If you are overcome by fumes from a smoldering fire
- If you are unable to reach the phone for any reason
- 24 hours a day, whether your system is armed or disarmed, whether you’re home or away

“A fire detection and/or smoke warning system could save your life.”
- International Association of Fire Chiefs

- A residential fire is reported every 78 seconds
- 2,755 civilians died in residential fires in 2008
- Property loss totaled $15,478,000,000.

Source: Fire Loss In The United States in 2008, NFPA
Smoke detectors are a logical extension to your home security system. Whether they are installed with a new system or added to an existing one, the smoke detectors can be connected directly to the security control panel monitored by your security dealer.

When smoke is sensed at any one of the protected locations in your home, the detector will send a message to your control panel, which will then cause all the evacuation horns to sound. The panel will then relay the emergency signal to your monitoring service where the message is received and a response made. The monitoring center may call to verify the alarm. The local fire department is then notified, so that help is on the way, whether you are home or away.

“But I already have a smoke detector.”
You may already have a battery-operated or hardwired AC smoke detector in your home, but how do they compare to a monitored system?

Battery-operated — Battery-operated detectors have two major problems. First, they are rarely connected to other detectors, remote warning devices or a central monitoring station. If they are located outside a bedroom, a sound sleeper may not hear them, especially if the bedroom door is closed or just partially open. If detectors are located on a different level of the home than the bedroom level, then the likelihood they will wake up sleeping family members is further diminished. A second problem with battery-operated detectors is their batteries—if they are not periodically replaced, the detectors will not work! Too many fire deaths occur in homes where detectors fail to function because their batteries are dead, disconnected or removed.

AC Powered Detectors — Many AC powered detectors are not connected to other detectors or remote warning devices. Even those that are only connected to other devices can provide a local warning of fire. If no one is home, a fire can develop without anyone taking action to protect valuable property.

Monitored Detectors — When located on all levels of a residence and in all bedrooms, monitored detectors provide the best kind of early warning fire protection. If they sense a fire developing, they signal an alarm control, which activates all evacuation horns throughout a residence and sends a fire alarm signal to the central station, which will notify the fire department. Monitored detectors provide fire protection when you are home or away. As part of a home security system, monitored detectors provide both an AC primary power supply and a rechargeable back-up battery.
Where do I put smoke detectors?

The U.S. Fire Administration and The Canada Safety Council Recommend:

Install smoke detectors on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke detectors both inside and outside the sleeping area.

Smoke detectors should be installed on the ceiling or 6 to 8 inches below the ceiling on sidewalls. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke detectors at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible.

Ionization or Photoelectronic?

Smoke detectors do their job using one of two technologies: ionization and photoelectronic. Either technology can detect a fast flaming or slow smoldering fire, but response times can vary. Your security system representative will help you select the one that’s best for your home.

Ionization – Ionization detectors respond well to fast-flaming fires, such as paper in a wastebasket or a grease fire in the kitchen.

Photoelectronic – Photoelectronic detectors are well suited to detecting slow smoldering fires, which are most common in households. Sources of these fires may include cigarettes burning on couches or bedding, which can smolder for hours before bursting into flames.

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