



## an effective watchman !



saves lives and greatly reduces material losses.

maintained in good condition

A properly installed smoke alarm

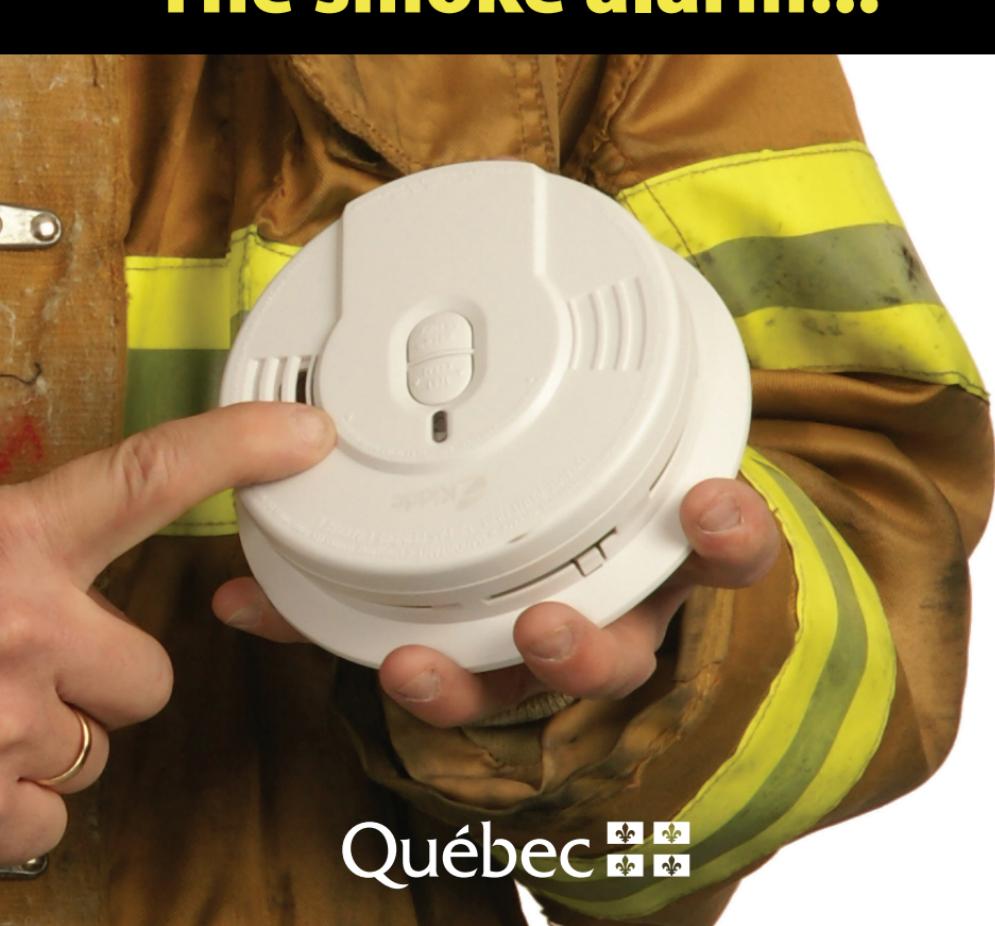
[www.msp.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.msp.gouv.qc.ca) (see the Fire Safety section).

the minister of Public Security website:

your municipality's fire department or visit

For more information on smoke alarms, don't hesitate to contact

## The smoke alarm...



Québec

## ***How many smoke alarms should I have in my home?***

It is recommended to have one smoke alarm on each floor, including the basement, and to install them in the bedrooms where people sleep with the door closed.

## ***Where should I install the smoke alarms?***

In the hallways, near the bedrooms, making sure that there are no obstacles that prevent smoke from circulating. They are installed on the ceiling or on the walls, at a distance of 10 to 30 cm (4 to 12 inches) from the wall or the ceiling.

## ***What type of smoke alarm should I buy?***

You should choose the type of smoke alarm depending on the place where it will be installed. The most common is the ionization smoke alarm. It is most suitable near bedrooms. The photoelectric cell smoke alarm is most often installed near the kitchen, the bathroom or near heating appliances. This type of smoke alarm triggers less needless alarms caused by steam or cooking, for example.

In new constructions, smoke alarms should be permanently connected to the electrical system. Some models are equipped with an auxiliary battery in case of a power failure.

## ***Is it preferable to have smoke alarms connected to a central monitoring station?***

Thanks to smoke alarms connected to a central monitoring station, the Fire Department intervenes even faster, especially if a fire breaks out in your absence.

## ***How can I ensure that I buy a good smoke alarm?***

The smoke alarm must be certified by Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC), a recognized standards organization. The ULC logo indicates that the smoke alarm was manufactured and inspected in accordance with the organization's standards. The UL logo preceded by a small « c » certifies that the unit was manufactured and inspected in the United States, in accordance with standards accepted in Canada. Often the device also bears the CSA logo, which indicates that some of the smoke alarm's components were manufactured in accordance with CSA International standards.

## ***How do we know if our smoke alarm is working properly?***

Once a month, press the test button for a few seconds. You should hear the signal immediately. Check its ability to detect smoke by extinguishing a candle near it. Perform this test once a year or whenever the entire family has been away from home for more than seven days. If the smoke alarm is connected to a central monitoring station, check with the company whether the signal was transmitted.

## ***When should the smoke alarm battery be changed?***

Replace the battery when the smoke alarm emits intermittent audible signals. These indicate that the battery is too low. When you move the clock an hour back or forward, in March and November, take the opportunity to test the battery and replace it as needed. Never install a rechargeable battery.

## ***What should be done when the smoke alarm goes off too often?***

It is likely that the smoke alarm is installed too close to the kitchen or the bathroom, for example. Air out the room and install the smoke alarm a little farther away. Never remove the battery.

## ***Can smoke alarms be cleaned without risk?***

Lightly vacuum outside and inside the smoke alarm casing at least once a year. Never paint it. Never open the casing of an electric smoke alarm. Most companies that offer a smoke alarm service connected to a central monitoring station perform maintenance and annual inspection on request.

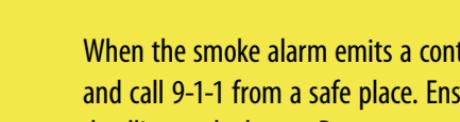
## ***When should a smoke alarm be replaced?***

Replace it every 10 years. Go by the useful life indicated on the smoke alarm casing. If it is damaged, dusty or doesn't emit a signal after the battery is replaced, change it. Never exceed the suggested useful life.

## ***Is it mandatory to have a smoke alarm?***

Most municipalities have a regulation that requires installing a smoke alarm. Regulation or no regulation, a smoke alarm is crucial because it allows occupants to escape quickly before smoke spreads. It saves lives, particularly if a fire emergency occurs at night.

# **A golden rule**



When the smoke alarm emits a continuous signal, leave the building immediately and call 9-1-1 from a safe place. Ensure that all the occupants have evacuated the dwelling or the house. Prepare an evacuation plan in case of fire with your family or your co-tenants. Also provide for a gathering point outdoors and never go back inside a burning building.