

FIRE LOSS IN MICHIGAN AND THE NEED FOR TAMPER-PROOF 10-YEAR SMOKE ALARMS

- This legislation attempts to address Michigan’s high fire mortality rate¹ by limiting the sale of battery-powered smoke alarms to only those with tamper-proof 10-year batteries (smoke alarms that receive their primary power from the building will still be allowed).
 - Smoke alarms with tamper-proof 10-year batteries are not a proprietary technology – most manufacturers produce them:
 - First Alert
 - Kidde
 - USJ
- Home fires cause the majority of all civilian fire deaths, civilian injuries, and property loss due to fire².
- Smoke alarms are critical to keeping the state’s citizens safe. During a home structure fire, residents may have *as little as two minutes to safely evacuate*³.
- Almost three out of five home fire deaths in 2012-2016 were caused by fires in properties with no smoke alarms (40%) or smoke alarms that failed to operate (17%). The risk of dying in reported home structure fires is 54% lower in homes with working smoke alarms than in homes with no alarms or none that worked.⁴
- According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), as of March 5th there have been **22 home fire fatalities** in Michigan this year.⁵ In 2020, there were 98 home fire fatalities in Michigan.
- A recent study released by The Hartford ranking the top 150 U.S. cities with the highest home fire risk found Detroit, MI to have the highest risk for home fire.⁶ Flint (11), Kalamazoo (67), and Grand Rapids (134) also made the list.
- The cost of a smoke alarm with a tamper-proof 10-year battery is approximately \$10 more than one that is powered by a 9-volt battery.
 - However, a smoke alarm powered by a 9-volt battery will need the battery replaced every six-months.
 - The tamper-proof 10-year battery lasts the life of the device, **resulting in a savings of \$20-30**.
- Smoke alarms equipped with a sealed 10-year battery prevent tampering, increasing safety and convenience for Michigan’s residents.

¹ According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Michigan ranks 23rd for home fire deaths: "U.S. Fire Death Rates by State" National Fire Protection Association. <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Fire-deaths-by-state>.

² "Fire Loss in the United States During 2018" National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), October 2019. <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Fire-loss-in-the-United-States>.

³ "How to Make a Home Fire Escape Plan" National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escapes-planning>.

⁴ "Smoke Alarms in US Homes" Ahrens, Marty; National Fire Protection Association (January 2019). <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/Detection-and-signaling/ossmokealarms.pdf>.

⁵ As of March 5, 2021. <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/states/michigan.html>.

⁶ "2020 Home Fire Index," The Hartford: https://s0.hfdstatic.com/sites/the_hartford/files/junior-fire-marshal-infographic-2020.pdf.