



Louie Delaware  
***The Home Safety Guru™***

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### Over 90% Of Smoke Detectors May Not Work Properly In A Fire

**LOUISVILLE, CO** – September 4, 2007 – Everyone knows that smoke detectors save lives every day. And nearly everyone takes the time each year to change the batteries on these units. But unfortunately, most people don't know what else should be done with smoke detectors. Louie Delaware, ***The Home Safety Guru™***, says, "A smoke detector can only work properly if air and smoke can get to the sensing devices."

Further, when Louie is doing a home safety survey on older homes, he sees that over 90% of the homes have smoke detectors that may not work properly in a fire. Louie says, "Smoke detectors are working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Over 10 years, they have been operating nearly 90,000 hours continuously. The problem is that the components may not work properly or not be as sensitive due to aging."

Louie recommends the following for smoke detectors:

#### **ANNUAL MAINTENANCE**

- ◆ **Annual Battery Replacement** – Every autumn, you should change the batteries of your smoke detectors. Make certain you are using new batteries.
- ◆ **Cleaning** – When changing the batteries, while the cover is still open you should vacuum the detector to get rid of dust, spider webs and the like to allow air to flow to the detector easily.
- ◆ **Testing** – Before finishing the annual maintenance, push the test button (it is probably a good idea to let everyone in the home know you are doing this as to not scare them).

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- ◆ **Home Alarm Systems** – If you have a home alarm system, you should consult with your monitoring company as to how to do your annual maintenance.

## REPLACEMENT

- ◆ **Every 10 Years** - The National Fire Protection Association suggests that smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years. After this period of time, they may not be as sensitive as when new and may not actually sound an alarm during a fire.
- ◆ **Wired Interconnected Detectors** – Newer building codes required that if one smoke detector sounds an alarm, all of the detectors in the home will sound. These will give you the most notice that a fire may be occurring in your home. If you have these units, you need to make certain that all of the smoke detectors are made by the same manufacturer and same model, otherwise they may not work properly. As you will be handling 120 VAC wires, if you are not comfortable changing these yourself, hire an electrician or handyman.
- ◆ **Stand-Alone Detectors** – These are units that will only sound an alarm at the detector alone. You can replace these, but you may want to consider the next type.
- ◆ **Wireless Interconnected Detectors** – These work the same way as the wired interconnected ones do, but instead of being wired, they send to all other smoke detectors in a home a signal to sound their alarms as well. These are great for older homes where re-wiring for wired detectors would be very expensive. Consider having these on each level and in each room.
- ◆ **Marking Installation Date** – When replacing a detector, mark on the new unit the date you installed it, preferably near the battery where you will see it every year.

Louie continues, “The unfortunate thing of this is that people see a smoke detector and think that they are safeguarded in their homes. They need to do annual maintenance and replace them every 10 years.”

For more information about Louie’s 90% Rules, go to [www.USSafetyPros.com](http://www.USSafetyPros.com).

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*Louie Delaware, **The Home Safety Guru™**, president and founder of US Safety Pros, LLC is a Certified Child & Home Safety Professional in all aspects of home safety, from childproofing to home safety, radon testing & mitigation along with fire, carbon monoxide and barrier free construction. US Safety Pros has been protecting homes in Colorado for over 3 years, and has helped safeguard over 500 homes.*

*For more information about Louie Delaware, go to his web site, [www.HomeSafetyGuru.com](http://www.HomeSafetyGuru.com). **The Home Safety Guru™** is a registered trademark with the United States Patent & Trademark Office. Louie’s book **Relax – Your Child’s Safe – A Practical Guide to Childproofing** will be published soon.*

*Louie has been on Channels 7, 9 and 31, 850 KOA, 630 KHOW, AM760, KGFT Colorado Springs and in the Denver Post. Colorado Childproofers is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide ([www.SafeKids.org](http://www.SafeKids.org)), the International Association for Child Safety ([www.IAFCS.org](http://www.IAFCS.org)). See us at [www.USSafetyPros.com](http://www.USSafetyPros.com), the [Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau](#) and [Tom Martino's Troubleshooter Referral Network](#).*

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