Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

General guidance — your appliance make/model may differ. When in doubt, stop and contact PCPM.

Common symptoms

- Detector chirps every 30–60 seconds
- Alarm sounds with no smoke (cooking/steam)
- Alarm does not sound when tested

Try this first

1. A single chirp usually means a low battery: replace with the battery type printed on the alarm and press TEST.
2. Still chirping after a new battery: remove the battery, hold TEST for 15–30 seconds to drain it, reinstall and test.
3. Hardwired alarms have a backup battery — twist the alarm off its base to change it, then re-attach.
4. Nuisance alarms from cooking: open windows and run the range hood; press HUSH. Never remove batteries to stop nuisance alarms.
5. Test alarms monthly. Some alarms have a sealed 10-year battery — if those chirp, the whole alarm must be replaced (call PCPM).

Safety first

- If a smoke alarm sounds and there is smoke or fire: get out, stay out, call 911.
- If a CO alarm sounds: get everyone (and pets) outside to fresh air and call 911 — CO is odorless.
- Never disable, paint over or cover a detector. Tenants must not remove detectors.

When to call PCPM

Tell PCPM right away if any detector is missing, will not stop chirping, does not sound when tested, or is past its replace-by date.

Emergencies (no heat in freezing weather, active leak, no water, sparking/burning smell, sewage backup, security issue): call PCPM immediately at 417-844-6363. Non-emergencies: submit a request on the Tenant Portal or email pcpmrentals@gmail.com with photos.

Helpful links

- Stop the chirping! Replace your alarm battery (YouTube)
- How to stop your smoke detector from chirping (YouTube)
- Kidde support
- First Alert support

- NFPA — smoke alarm safety