A smoke alarms is one of those amazing inventions that, due to mass production, costs practically nothing. You can get an effective smoke alarm for as little as $7. And while they cost very little, smoke alarms save thousands of lives each year.

Minnesota law requires every home to have at least one smoke alarm per level.
In new construction, a smoke alarm must be installed in each sleeping room and in a point centrally located in the corridor. These alarms must be interconnected.

All smoke alarms consist of two basic parts — a sensor to sense the smoke and a very loud electronic horn to awaken and alert people.

Smoke Alarm Types

Battery powered:
A battery-powered alarm is a basic smoke alarm with a hinged-cover that opens for easy battery replacement without removing the unit from the ceiling. Many features available, including an " escape light" to illuminate a path to safety when the alarm sounds. A Silence/Test button tests alarm functions and silences nuisance alarms.

AC powered:
An AC powered (hardwired) smoke alarm. A Test/reset button tests alarm and resets the memory. It may have inter-connect abilities and other features.

AC powered with battery back-up:
A120-Volt, AC powered smoke alarm with battery back-up for single- or multiple-station use. It may include a false alarm control feature that allows the user to quiet an unwanted alarm for up to 15 minutes.