Smoke Alarms

- Do an audit of your home’s smoke alarms.
- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home and outside of sleeping areas.
- Test your alarms monthly and be sure that they can be heard in bedrooms even when the doors are closed. If not, install smoke alarms in the bedrooms.
- Replace batteries every six months during the time change, unless otherwise noted. Remember, some batteries are good for up to 10 years.
- If you have a smoke detector directly wired into your electrical system, be sure that the light signal blinks periodically. This indicates that the alarm is active.
- Check placement of smoke alarms. Smoke rises, so smoke alarms should be located on a ceiling or high on a wall. Alarms mounted on the ceiling should be at least four inches away from the nearest wall and those mounted on walls should be four to twelve inches down from the ceiling.
- Make sure that your kids know what the alarms sound like.
- Replace smoke alarms when they turn 10 years old.
- Replace any alarm that has been painted over.
- There are also inexpensive smoke detectors for the hearing impaired.