



# Know the Sounds of Safety

*Is there a beep or a chirp coming from your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm? Knowing what these different sounds mean can save you, your family, and your home! Make sure everyone in the home understands the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and how to respond. Follow the guidelines outlined below to learn the sounds of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. You can also check the user guide or search the brand and model online.*

## **SMOKE ALARMS**

- A continued set of three loud beeps, “BEEP-BEEP-BEEP”, means smoke or fire may be present. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out until it’s safe to return inside.
- A single “chirp” every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed, or the smoke alarm needs to be replaced.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.

## **CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS**

- A continuous set of four loud beeps, “BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP”, means carbon monoxide may be present in your home. Go outside, call 9-1-1 and stay out until it is safe to return inside.
- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be replaced.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.
- CO alarms also have an “end of life” sound that varies by manufacturer. This means it’s time to replace the CO alarm.

*For more information, contact the Santa Fe County Fire Prevention/Risk Reduction Office at (505) 995-6517 or email: [fireprevention@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:fireprevention@santafecountynm.gov)*

