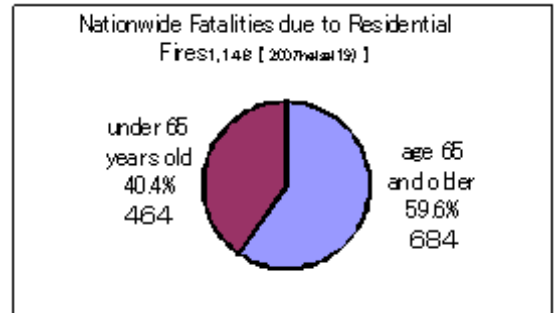


Mandatory Residential Fire Alarms

All households in Japan must have residential fire alarms installed.

Why are fire alarms necessary?

- The number of people killed in residential fires has been increasing. Elderly people comprise over half the fatalities.
- In sixty percent of the cases, people are killed due to being unable to escape from the house in time. This is because many fires break out during the night, while people are sleeping.



When will fire alarms become mandatory?

- All new residences build on or after June 1, 2006 must have fire alarms installed.
- Existing residences are required to have fire alarms installed by May 31, 2011.

What are fire alarms?

- A fire alarm is a device that announces the outbreak of a fire with a warning sound.
- One type detects smoke (a residential smoke alarm). One type detects heat (a residential heat alarm).
- It is the residential smoke alarms that are mandatory. Please purchase and install residential smoke alarms that have the NS mark (conforming to the National Standard).

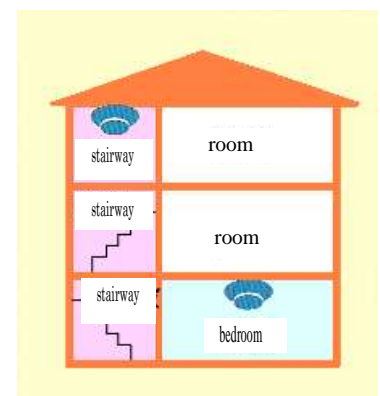
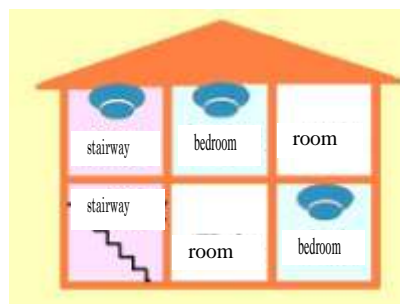


Where should fire alarms be installed?

- Fire alarms are necessary in every bedroom.
 - *In Hiroshima City all rooms other than the bedroom are exempt.
 - For houses with bedrooms on the second floor, a fire alarm must also be installed in the stairwell.
 - If all the bedrooms are on the ground floor, and if there are any rooms on the third floor, a fire alarm must be installed in the third floor stairwell.
 - On any floor with 5 rooms or more (over 7 square meters each) it is also necessary to install a fire alarm in the corridor.
- NOTE: If your residence has an automated fire alarm system or sprinkler system effectively installed in the above listed areas, a residential fire alarm is not necessary.
- NOTE: Common areas within apartments do not need to have residential fire alarms.

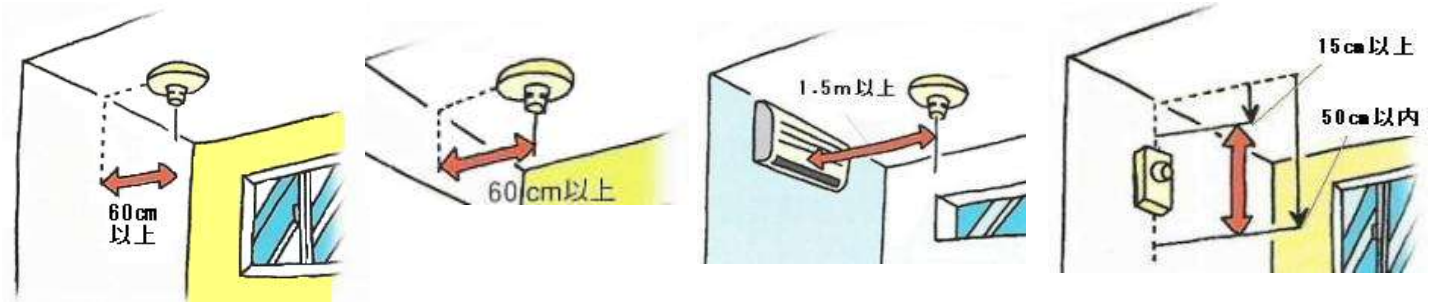


fire alarm



How should fire alarms be mounted?

- When installing a fire alarm on the ceiling, it should be 60 cm or more from the wall or any support beams.
- When installing a fire alarm on the wall, it should be 15 to 50 cm from the ceiling.
- If there is an air conditioner or exhaust fan in the room, the fire alarm should be 1.5 m or more from the vent.
- Anyone can install a battery-operated fire alarm. (Professional installation is not required.)



Who sells fire alarms?

- They can be purchased at home centers, electronics stores and vendors who sell fire extinguishers and other fire prevention equipment.