

## A Sound You Can Live With

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It was a frigid winter night. You and your family are gathered around the fireplace warming your hands. All the children toast marshmallows to gooey, golden brown perfection and add melted chocolate to a warm graham cracker. Amidst all the laughter, your mom glances at the clock and realizes the time has gotten away from her. She quickly brings all of the children upstairs to cuddle up in their cozy blankets for the night. During the hectic race to get ready for bed, not one single person puts out the fire. As sneaky as a lion inching towards its prey, the fire billows out with thick, dense smoke. Suddenly, your house is swept away in flames because you do not have a smoke alarm. Maybe you should reconsider not installing a smoke alarm in your home. People need to be responsible to prevent home fires by protecting their children when they are home alone and by warning neighbors that danger lurks in their houses.

To begin with, you can leave the house comfortably knowing your children are safe if you have a smoke alarm installed. A house fire is reported in the United States every ninety seconds. This means an average of 1.9 million fires that are reported each year and of all those fires someone dies in them every two and one-half hours! Do you want this to happen to your child when you are gone, and you can't do anything about it? I am sure you do not! Do not let your children be one of those people who die every two and a half hours! Would you be able to live with yourself if your beloved ten-year-old daughter died in a house fire?

What if you bolted to the store because you forgot an ingredient and turned on the oven for dinner before you left? Your daughter may not realize smoke is rippling

from the oven as she is upstairs watching her favorite show. She suddenly feels a change in temperature. It is getting hotter. She looks out of the door and sees the smoke charging for her like a herd of raging bulls. She panics and can not get out in time before being engulfed in the flames and smoke. You return home and find this horrifying image become a reality. Get a smoke alarm, so your children can be warned! This needs to be done immediately! Do not even create the slightest window of opportunity for your children to be killed in a house fire.

Trust me! My sister and I were at home alone one night. An electrical fire started upstairs from a light we had left on. If it was not for the smoke alarm, I might not be writing this essay today. Do not take a risk. Thus, get a smoke alarm to protect your children!

In addition, smoke alarms will warn neighbors of a fire whether you are on vacation, at the grocery store, or at a family outing on a Friday night. Ninety percent of all fires that occur when nobody is currently within the house who have smoke alarms are put out just in time. Notice how this fact says, "who have smoke alarms." If you have a smoke alarm in your home, you have a much better chance of saving your house from the unforgiving flames.

Imagine leaving with your family to enjoy an exquisite meal out at your favorite restaurant on a Saturday night. What you do not realize is that you have forgotten to put out the candle in the living room. Your mischievous dog unknowingly knocks over the candle onto the carpet. Within minutes, not only is your pet lost in the flames but so are your cherished family memories and all within the blink of an eye. Your scrapbooks, photos, videos, and family items are turned into ash as black as the night sky. This

could have been prevented if you had a smoke alarm to warn your neighbors before it is too late.

Are you reconsidering not having a smoke alarm? You better! Don't waste a second before you get a smoke alarm! I know that installing a fire alarm will give your neighbors an early warning, so take my word on this. It does not take much effort to properly install a fire alarm, so install one today! Therefore, installing a smoke alarm will warn your neighbors where the dangerous fire lurks.

In conclusion, adults need to take responsibility and stop home fires by acquiring a smoke alarm and installing it in their homes. Families can be more conscientious in preventing home fires as it will protect children from danger when they are left home alone and alert neighbors that danger is lurking in your house. Let us try this again. It was a frigid winter night. You and your family are gathered around the fireplace warming your hands. All the children toast marshmallows to gooey, golden brown perfection and add melted chocolate to a warm graham cracker. Amidst all the laughter, your mom glances at the clock and realizes the time has gotten away from her. She quickly brings all of the children upstairs to cuddle up in their cozy blankets for the night. Beep! Beep! Beep! There is the smoke alarm waiting like a bodyguard to protect you from the terrifying fire as soon as it strikes. Aren't you glad you got a smoke alarm?