

The installation of residential fire alarms has become mandatory in all homes in order to protect our families from the residential fires that claim many lives.

What is a residential fire alarm?

Function

When a residential fire alarm detects smoke or heat from a fire it produces a warning sound or voice alert enabling residents to escape from a fire.

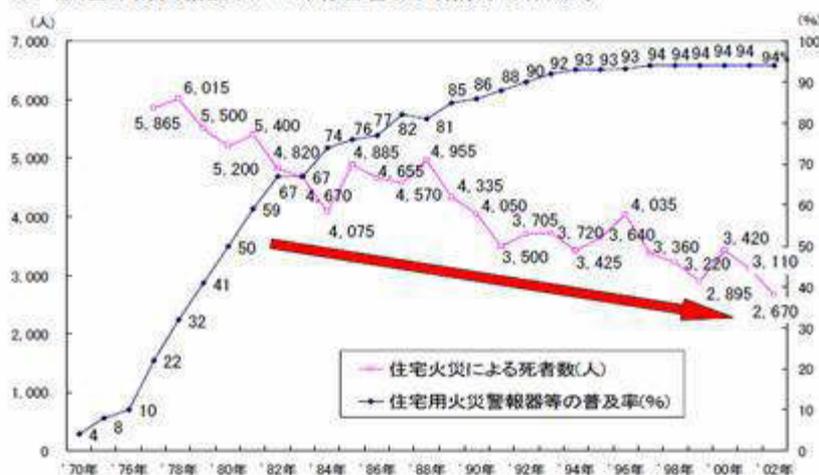
Making fire alarms mandatory should be tremendously effective in decreasing the number of deaths from residential fires. Deaths were cut in half in the United States of America where fire alarms are already mandatory.

Spread of fire alarm use and shift in number of deaths in the USA

-Due to the development of mandatory residential fire alarm installation in the late 1970s, there was a drastic decrease from the approximate 6,000 deaths a year in the late 1970s to less than half of that in 2002 (chart made by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency based on reports from the US National Fire Protection Association).

■米国の火災警報器の普及と死者数の推移

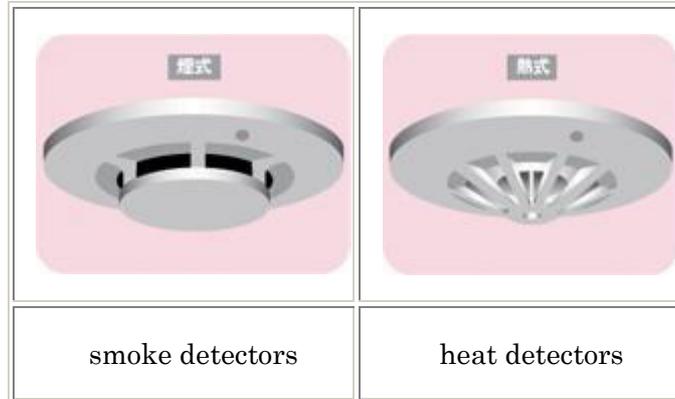
・1970年代後半からの住宅用火災警報器等の設置義務化の進展により普及が進み、1970年代後半には年間約6,000人だった死者が2002年には半数以下に大幅に減少している(全米防火協会(NFPA)報告書より消防庁で作成)。



Type

There are “smoke detectors” and “heat detectors,” but the Order for Enforcement of the Fire Service Act stipulates that in the areas where fire alarms are mandatory (bedrooms,

etc.), “smoke detectors” are to be installed. However, when fire alarms are installed in places where smoke is common such as a kitchen, “heat detector” types are recommended to prevent false alarms.



Why have fire alarms become mandatory?

Background – residential fires cause many deaths

Death from residential fires is one of society’s biggest problems. Recent years have shown an increase in senior citizen deaths and it is projected that residential fires will cause approximately 1,100 deaths in 2005.

Result

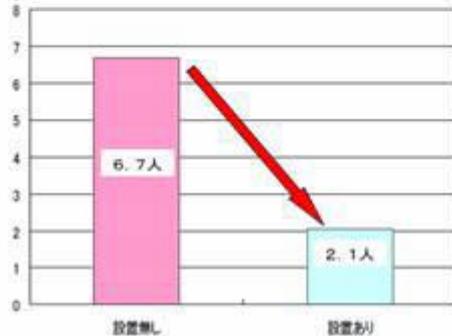
When comparing the number of deaths of residential that have fire alarms and those that don’t during a fire, houses with fire alarms have one third the amount of deaths of houses without fire alarms.



■住宅用火災警報器等の設置の有無による死者数比較

(平成15年中)

・住宅用火災警報器等が設置されていた火災と設置されていなかった火災を、住宅火災100件当たりの死者数で比較すると、設置されていた場合には約3分の1の死者数となっている(数値は「火災統計」のデータ(平成15年)による)。



Comparison of death rate in houses with and those without fire alarms (2003)

-Deaths per 100 house fires in houses with alarms and houses without alarms were compared. Houses with fire alarms had one third the amount of deaths than that of houses without fire alarms.

Where should I install the fire alarm?

Install in the following areas

- bedrooms
- in stairwells when there are bedrooms are on the second floor or above.
- in designated areas of residences three or more floors high.

*for details, inquire at your local fire station or fire department

Where can I buy a fire alarm?

Fire alarms can be purchased in general home centers, electronics retail stores, or in fire protection equipment offices.

When making your purchase, we recommend that you choose devices that have the “NS” (Japan Fire Equipment Inspection Institute) mark.



Caution!!

Dishonest dealers posing as fire protection equipment vendors or fire department staff may come to your home (cases have already been reported where senior citizens living alone were targeted).

Fire Department Staff do not make sale calls.

Be especially careful of vendors who hurry you into a contract by saying things like “you will be breaking the law if you don’t sign immediately.”

There is a refund period in place for residential fire alarms, so please contact the consumers’ center if you already signed a contract.

For further inquiries (Japanese only)

-Residential Fire Alarm Consultation Center

Phone: 0120-565-911 (toll-free)

Hours: M-F) 9am – 5pm

-Your local Fire Department or Fire Station

-Fire Prevention and Disaster Response Division

Ibaraki Prefectural Government

Phone: 029-301-2879

-Ask a Japanese speaker to call the relevant office above

- If you don’t know a Japanese speaker, call Ibaraki International Association:

029-244-3811