

Accessible Smoke Alarm Project

A.S.A.P. Information

- Through a generous grant from West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, WVCDHH distributes accessible smoke alarms to provide homeowners who are deaf or hard of hearing with a higher level of safety.
- Smoke alarms are distributed at **no cost** to the homeowner
- Once distributed, the alarms are yours to keep.

• Why Do I Need Accessible Alarms?

- According to the U.S. Fire Administration, from 2017 to 2019, an estimated 368,500 residential fires were reported to U.S. fire departments each year.
- Working smoke alarms are the best way to prevent injuries and death from home fires.
- People who are deaf or who are hard of hearing often cannot hear standard home smoke alarms.
- The alarms WVCDHH distributes are designed to signal deaf and hard of hearing individuals, even while sleeping.

What if I have an issue with the equipment?

- If you have an issue with the smoke alarms, please contact WVCDHH. We will attempt to help you troubleshoot. If we are unable to determine the issue, we may ask that you ship the alarms back. We will first attempt to fix any issues. If we are unable to, we will ship a new set to you.

Types of Alarms Distributed

Three different alarms will be distributed through this project. The type and number of alarms received will depend on hearing loss and layout of the home.

First Alert



This alarm sounds an 85dB warning when fire danger is sensed. **All project participants will receive one or more First Alert alarms.**

Lifetone



This is an alarm clock that “hears” the First Alert alarm. When the First Alert sounds, the Lifetone sends three different signals designed to awaken and alert a sleeping person who is deaf or hard of hearing:

- A special 520 Hz square-wave alarm designed to be more likely heard by a person with a hearing loss
- An attached bed shaker vibrates to provide a tactile signal
- The clock flashes the word FIRE.

All project participants will receive one or more Lifetone alarms.

Gentex



This alarm sounds a 90db warning and has a strobe light, providing visual notification of danger from multiple locations in the home.

Only project participants who are deaf and are unable to hear the other two alarms will receive one or more Gentex alarms.

Application and Installation

How to Apply

1. Review the information and print the application from the website.
2. Complete the application. Make sure to include:
 - Completed Proof of Hearing Loss form signed by a healthcare professional
 - Copy of your most recent audiogram. ***If you attended the WV School for the Deaf, please contact us. We may be able to get this for you.***
3. WVCDHH will review your application and send a set of alarms to fit your need. You should receive your alarms within two weeks of receipt of your completed and accepted application.

Installation

- Follow the directions for each of the devices. WVCDHH will include a guide. Make sure to place smoke alarms in the recommended areas for best results.
- If you have any trouble, and need help with installation, contact your local fire department. You may contact WVCDHH for fire department locations and contact information.
- Make sure to test your alarms **every** month to ensure they are working properly.

Eligibility

To qualify for this project, applicants must:

- Live in West Virginia
- Provide a completed proof of hearing loss form and an audiogram
- Submit a complete application with required documentation to WVCDHH
- Own their home

Applicants will **NOT** qualify if they:

- Live in an institution such as a dorm, a nursing home, or a correctional facility
- Rent their home or apartment—it is the landlord's responsibility to provide accessible smoke alarms for tenants. If your landlord has questions, ask them to call WVCDHH.
- Can not verify by a healthcare professional that they would benefit from accessible smoke alarms.



The mission of the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) is to advocate for, develop, and coordinate public policies, regulations, and programs to assure full and equal opportunity for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing in West Virginia.

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WVCDHH is an office within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

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West Virginia Accessible Smoke Alarm Project (ASAP)



A service to provide free smoke alarms for homeowners who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Funded by:



West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WVDRS)



Administered by:
West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH)