

## **Battery vs. Electrically Connected**

*All of the following alarm types are acceptable.*

**Battery operated** smoke alarms are simple to install and do not depend upon electrical service. However, batteries can be easily removed or disconnected. It is important to ensure that smoke alarms continue to work by replacing batteries at least once a year or whenever necessary.

**Electrically connected** smoke alarms are more costly to install, however there is less maintenance involved, as there are no batteries to replace. The alarms will not work if electrical power is lost.

**Electrically connected with battery back-up** smoke alarms will function even if electrical power is lost. The Ontario fire service believes this is the best type of smoke alarm to install. If this type of alarm is not installed, then we recommend one of each kind (battery operated and electrically connected), keeping in mind that there should be at least one smoke alarm on every level of the home.

*For further information contact your Fire Prevention Officer.*

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