



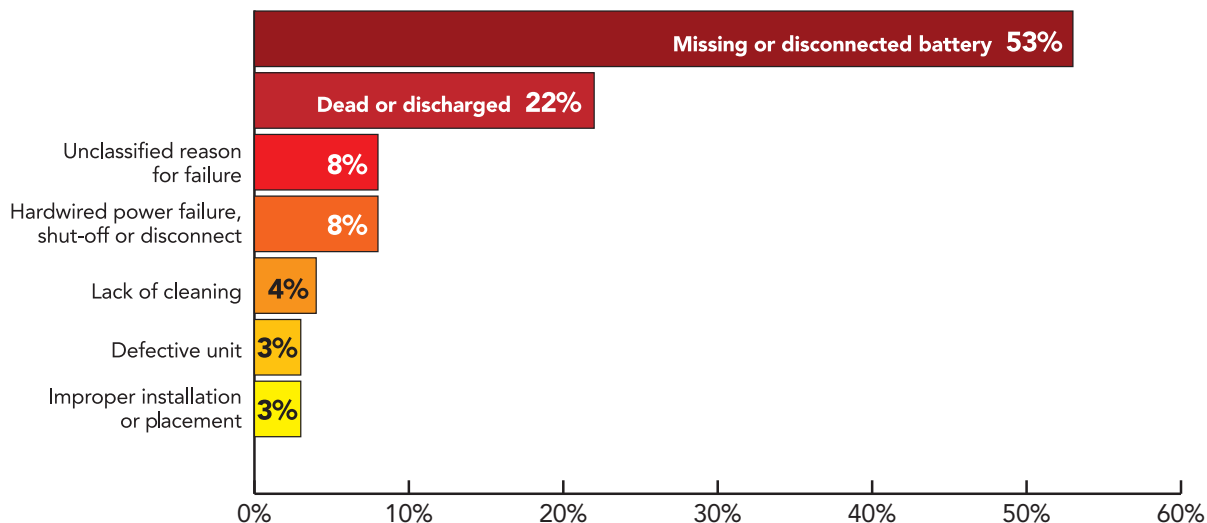
Fast Facts About Smoke Alarms

- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires nearly in half.
- Most homes (96%) have at least one smoke alarm (according to a 2008 telephone survey).
- Overall, three-quarters of all U.S. homes have at least one working smoke alarm.
- In 2003–2006, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from home fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
 - No smoke alarms were present in 40% of the home fire deaths.
 - In 23% of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.
- In more than half of the reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, batteries were missing or disconnected. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected alarms.
- More than half of the smoke alarms found in reported fires and two-thirds of the alarms found in homes with fire deaths were powered by battery only.
- In fires considered large enough to activate a smoke alarm, hard-wired alarms operated 91% of the time; battery-powered smoke alarms operated 75%.
- Interconnected smoke alarms on all floors increase safety. In a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) survey of households with any fires, interconnected smoke alarms were more likely to operate and alert occupants to a fire. (This includes fires in which the fire department was not called).



Source: *Smoke Alarms in U.S. Home Fires* by Marty Ahrens, NFPA, Quincy, MA, September 2009.

Reason Smoke Alarm Failed to Operate in Home Structure Fires 2003–2006



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