



FACT SHEET

No. 41 – Smoke Alarms for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired

Version 03

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FACT

The standard high frequency smoke alarm (3,100 Hz, 85 dB at a distance of 3 metres) is suitable to wake most mild to moderately hearing impaired people. People who are Deaf or have a severe hearing impairment (cannot hear above 85 decibels) may have difficulty in hearing conventional smoke alarms and evacuation systems. If necessary ensure someone is assigned to help them escape (Source: Piesse, R. (Nov 2007) Journal of SHHH Australia Inc.).

SMOKE ALARMS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

There are specialised smoke alarms available for people who are Deaf or have a hearing impairment. These have a flashing strobe light and/or a vibrating pad that can be placed under the pillow which activate when the smoke alarm sounds and are designed to interconnect with conventional audible alarms in different locations within the home. If one of the alarms senses smoke, all alarms will sound, the strobe will flash and the vibrating pad will operate.

At present there is no Australian Standard (AS) that applies to smoke alarms for hearing impaired people. If the code number AS3786 appears on a smoke alarm for hearing impaired people, it refers only to the smoke alarm sensing unit and does not include the flashing strobe light or the vibrating pad.

People who wish to purchase smoke alarms for the hearing impaired should contact the relevant associations in their state for information on where they can be sourced or visit: <http://www.betterhearingsydney.org.au/content/view/63/53/>

EMERGENCY CALL 106

The 106 emergency relay service enables people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment to contact emergency services through their TTY (also known as a teletypewriter or textphone) or modem. It is a dedicated text-based emergency relay-service with direct access to fire, police and ambulance services. It is available 24 hours a day, everyday.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Dial 106. This is a toll-free number. You will be asked if you want police, ambulance or **fire** (type FFF).
- The relay officer will stay on line to relay your conversation with the emergency service. Confirm your location.
- Do not hang up. Wait for a reply from the emergency service.
- If you wish to use speak and read (voice carry over) or type and listen (hearing carry over) let the relay officer know to set up the correct mode.
- This service is not available via speak and listen (speech to speech relay). These callers can dial 1800 555 727 and then ask for Triple Zero (000) or dial '000' directly.
- This service cannot be accessed by text message (SMS) on a mobile phone.



For more information contact your local fire station or visit:
www.fire.nsw.gov.au or www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or www.esa.act.gov.au

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

PREVENT PREPARE PROTECT

