



## SAFETY TIPS

4200 Dryden Road Moraine, Ohio 45439

phone (937) 535-1140

fax (937) 535-1307

[www.morainefire.org](http://www.morainefire.org)

### One Dime Buys More Today Than Yesterday

What does a dime buy these days? It's hard to think of anything that still costs just ten cents. But there is one thing that a dime can still buy . . . fire safety, a whole lot of it!! Here are some interesting facts about battery-operated smoke detectors.

Smoke detectors are constant sentries. When a new battery is installed each fall, a smoke detector continually analyzes the air flowing through the detection chamber looking for smoke. In a year's time, a smoke detector puts in 8,760 hours of work. This means that it has operated continuously for almost 32 million seconds (31,536,000 seconds, to be exact). But the smoke detector is also a power miser because it does all of that on only one 9-volt battery.

The recommended lifespan of a single-station smoke detector is ten (10) years. Over that 10-year period, a smoke detector stands guard for 315,359,700 seconds (we subtracted one minute per year, the time it takes to change the battery twice each year). If a smoke detector was originally purchased for \$10.00 and 18 additional batteries were purchased for \$2.00 each, the average cost of smoke detector protection over a 10-year period would be just \$4.60/year. That's about a dime a week, a pretty small amount of money for so much protection.

If you're a change collector, think about how many dimes are stockpiled in your change jar. If you add up that change each year, you'll probably have saved enough to protect your loved ones, valuables, and home by replacing your smoke detector every 10 years and its battery twice every year, the next 100 years. More so, think about how many homes you could personally protect by detectors and replacement batteries to needy families.

So the next time you think that a dime won't buy a thing . . . think again! A dime could save a life!