

## The Facts about 10 Year Sealed Smoke Alarm Technology

### **New Maryland law:**

As of July 1, 2013, homeowners with battery-powered smoke alarms must update to long-life sealed-in battery smoke alarms. This law applies to homes with alarms more than 10 years old. Additionally, homes will be required to install smoke alarms in all sleeping areas. Sealed-in battery alarms may be used in those locations if the home currently has hardwired alarms.

### **The Need:**

- Two-thirds of all home fire deaths in America occur in homes with either no smoke alarm or no working alarm, mainly due to missing or disconnected batteries.
- In Maryland, 39 home fire fatalities have been reported from January to June, 2013.
- In 2012, nearly half (46%) of Maryland fire fatalities occurred in homes without smoke alarms or with inoperable alarms.
- Approximately 800,000 Maryland residences rely on battery-powered smoke alarms.
- 60% of U.S. homeowners have left a smoke alarm without a working battery.
- Fire experts recommend installing smoke alarms on each floor and in sleeping areas. Three out of four homeowners don't know the proper locations for installation.
- Fire experts recommend replacing smoke alarms every 10 years. Industry surveys show one in four homes – those built prior to 2002 – have never replaced their alarms.
- After 10 years, a smoke alarm's efficiency may be compromised with accumulated dust, insects, airborne contaminants and aging electrical circuitry.

### **The Benefits:**

- Proven to provide protection for 10 years, homeowners no longer have to remember to replace batteries or be hassled by low battery chirps.
- Sealing the batteries into the unit's housing and circuitry makes these alarms tamper resistant.
- After 10 years, the alarm will sound an end-of-life warning, letting the owner know it's time to replace the alarm.

### **National Supporters of this Technology:**



**National Fire Protection Association**

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety



The National Association of  
**STATE FIRE MARSHALS**



**FEMA**