

# NTPC Health & Safety Alert

## Smoke Detector Batteries



### Background

A recent Health and Safety audit found that smoke detectors in the plant transient trailer had been disabled by pulling each one off the ceiling and removing the battery. The disabling/bypass of a safety device creates a hazard for other workers and can threaten lives and property. Batteries in smoke detectors may be the only power source, or may act as a backup for hard-wired smoke detectors in the case of a power outage.

### Practical Guidance

Studies completed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have found that:

- 59% of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (38%) or no working smoke alarms (21%).
- In fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, almost half (46%) of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries. Dead batteries caused one-quarter (24%) of the smoke alarm failures.



It is essential to check smoke detectors once a month to ensure they are in working condition. Any dead batteries shall be replaced immediately to maintain the fire protection warning properties of the detector.

Never remove a battery for nuisance alarms. If cooking smoke activates the alarm, open windows and provide ventilation until the alarm ceases. Test the alarm afterwards to ensure it still has battery power.

For more info contact the Health and Safety Department.