

## Video – Fitting a smoke alarm

**KATIE:** A smoke alarm is the easiest and most effective way to alert you to the danger of fire. If there's smoke in your house, the alarm will warn you of it. This will give you precious time to escape.

**JACK:** But what if you don't have a smoke alarm?

**KATIE:** Well, they're not expensive for your parents to buy or difficult to fit. But if your parents are worried about how to install one, then your local fire fighters will be more than happy to visit you and fit one for free. Your parents just need to fill in the request form on [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk) or ring this free phone number 0800 389 00053.

**JACK:** Do you just need one alarm in your house?

**KATIE:** The more you have the safer you'll be. At the very least you should have one on each floor - probably in the middle of the hall and landing ceilings.

**JACK:** How do they work?

**KATIE:** Well, the alarm is so sensitive that it can detect smoke. Once it does this, it will then go off - making a loud sound that you will hear. This is to warn you and anyone else in the house to get out immediately.

**JACK:** So that's all you need to know about smoke alarms, is it?

**KATIE:** No - there's more. They should all be checked regularly, at least monthly. By pressing the test button until it sounds. Twice a year the inside should be gently vacuumed to remove dust and any small insects from the sensors. After ten year's its best to get a whole new alarm.