

Smoke Alarms

Fire Danger in the Home:

Fire is the third leading cause of accidental death. Residential occupancies account for most fire fatalities and most of these deaths occur at night during the sleeping hours.

Fire Safety in the Home: Reasonable fire safety can be provided by:

1. Minimizing fire hazards
2. Providing a fire warning system
3. Having an escape plan

Locations: Smoke Alarms are required in the following locations in dwellings:

- In each sleeping room.
- Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping rooms.
- In each additional story of the dwelling including the basement.
- Not less than three feet horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm required by Section R314.3.

Interconnected:

The Smoke Alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm shall activate all of the alarms in the dwelling. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed. The sound level at the pillow shall be not less than 70 dBA.

Smoke alarms shall comply with NFPA 72 and listed in accordance with UL 217 and UL 2034.

Additions, alterations, or repairs:

When interior alterations, interior repairs, or additions requiring a permit occur, or when a sleeping room is added or created, smoke alarms shall be provided throughout in the locations as required for new homes.

Power:

In new construction, smoke alarms shall receive their power from the house wiring and shall be equipped with battery backup. Smoke alarms may be solely battery operated when installed in existing buildings undergoing repairs or alterations, provided interior wall and ceiling finishes are not being removed and further provided there is no attic, crawl space or basement available that could provide access for hard wiring and interconnection.

***Smoke Alarms must be installed and be operational
prior to final inspection and occupancy.***