

Smoke Alarms in R-2 Occupancies

More fire deaths occur in residential buildings than in any other building type. More than half of all fire deaths that occur in residential buildings occur when the occupants are asleep and are unaware that a fire has occurred; death usually results from asphyxiation long before the fire reaches the bedroom.

Smoke alarms installed in a home give an early warning of smoke and fire thus giving the occupants the critical few moments needed to escape.

General Requirements

Requirements vary by the age of the building and include:

- Whether this is a new or existing building
- Whether the building currently has smoke alarms
- Location of smoke alarms
- Power supply for smoke alarms
- Interconnection of smoke alarms

Placement of Smoke Alarms

- In hallways outside sleeping rooms
- In sleeping rooms
- On each level of the building including basement
- Ceiling (at least 4 inches from wall) or wall (4-12 inches below ceiling)
- On center of ceiling above stairways

New Buildings (constructed on or after 7/10/2007)

- Power supply
 - Hard-wired (120 volt)
 - Battery back-up also required
- Interconnection
 - Yes; must sound in all areas when activated.

Continued on next page...



Existing Building (constructed before 8/1/1989)

- Power supply
 - Hard-wired (120 volt) - *preferred*
 - Can be battery powered
- Interconnection
 - No; interconnection is not required or possible with battery powered alarms.

Existing Buildings (constructed on or after 8/1/1989)

- Power supply
 - Hard-wired (120 volt)
- Interconnection
 - No; interconnection is not required.

Replacement of Smoke Alarms in New and Existing Buildings

- Location
 - Must be installed in same locations as originally installed.
- Power supply
 - Power supply must be the same as the smoke alarm being replaced.
- Interconnection
 - Interconnection must be provided if it was present with the smoke alarms being replaced.

Required Replacement of Smoke Alarms

- The life expectancy of smoke alarms is 10 years, therefore, all smoke alarms 10 years old and older must be replaced.
You can usually find a manufacturing date on the back of the alarm.

Alterations, Repairs and Additions

When alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur; or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings. These smoke alarms must be interconnected and hard wired. However, under certain circumstances when the smoke alarm is unable to be hard wired, a smoke alarm with a 10-year battery that is interconnected can be approved by the Fire Inspector.

***Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions for smoke alarms.**

