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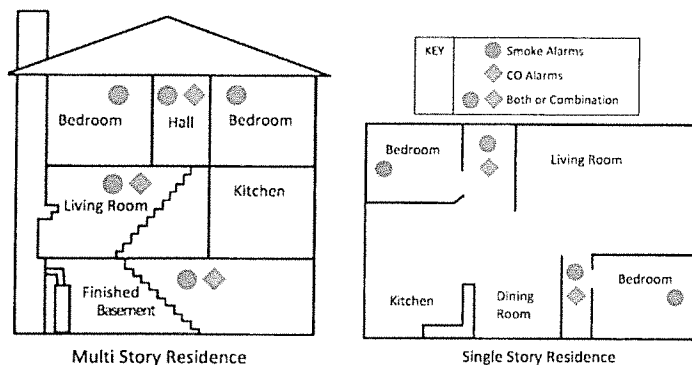
Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Smoke Alarms:

Approximately two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Since most fatal fires occur at night, it's essential that every home has working smoke alarms to provide an early warning. Working smoke alarms increase the chance of surviving a home fire by 50 percent.

Placement:

Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. On levels without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room or near the stairway to the upper level, or in both locations. Smoke alarms should be mounted on the ceiling at least 4" from the wall; wall mounted smoke alarms should be placed 4"-12" from the ceiling. Smoke alarms installed in the basement should be installed on the ceiling at the bottom of the stairs leading to the next level. Smoke alarms shall be installed at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance to minimize false alarms when cooking and 3 feet from bathroom doors. Do not install near draft areas (windows, vents, or fans).



New fire detector requirements in Illinois:

The new law would require smoke detectors to have a 10-year sealed battery. The requirement goes into effect on January 1, 2023. The Illinois' Smoke Detector Act requires a smoke detector within 15 feet of every sleeping room. Smoke detectors must be 4-6 inches from the wall if mounted to a ceiling. Smoke detectors need to be on every level of a home, except unoccupied attics.

It's the Law!

Illinois law requires that smoke alarms be installed and maintained in all dwelling units by the property owners. The landlord must promptly repair or replace inoperable smoke alarms upon request. New smoke alarms that are solely battery powered must have a non-replaceable, non-removable battery that is capable of powering the smoke alarm for at least 10 years.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms:

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. If home fuel-burning appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances.

Combination Alarms:

For years smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were separate units. More recently, alarms are being manufactured that detect both smoke and carbon monoxide. These are called "combination alarms" and meet the requirements of the Fire Codes.

Battery Replacement:

Smoke and combination alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire alarm right away. For alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Maintenance:

Test your smoke and CO alarms.

A suggested frequency is every month by simply holding down the test button. Vacuum your alarm at least once a year. Dust and cobwebs can impair sensitivity. Never paint over a smoke/CO alarm.

Alarms should be replaced every 10 years or per manufacturer's instructions.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. If fuel-burning appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result.

According to the American Medical Association, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that carbon monoxide kills approximately 500 people each year and injures another 20,000 people nationwide.

Where required:

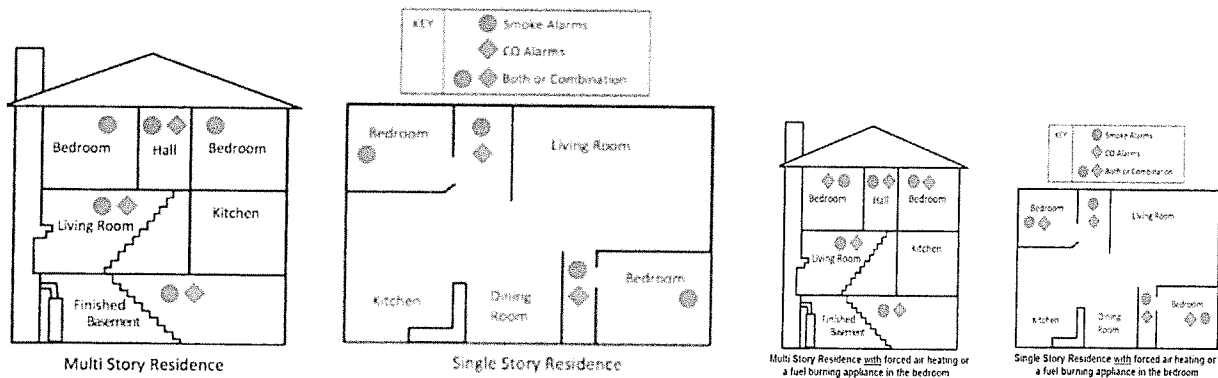
Carbon monoxide detection shall be provided in dwelling units, sleeping units, and classrooms:

- 1) That contain fuel-burning appliances and fuel-burning fireplaces
- 2) Served by a fuel-burning, forced air furnace
- 3) Located in buildings that contain fuel-burning appliances or fuel-burning fireplaces
- 4) In buildings with an attached private garage.

Placement;

Install carbon monoxide alarms at the following locations:

- 1) Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom
- 2) On every occupiable level of a dwelling unit, including basements
- 3) Where a fuel-burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, CO detection shall be installed within the bedroom.
- 4) Inside sleeping units with fuel burning appliances within the sleeping unit or its attached bathroom, or inside a sleeping unit served by a forced air furnace.
- 5) Mounting location for each carbon monoxide alarm shall be per the manufacturer's instructions.



Carbon monoxide (CO) is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. It is produced when any fossil fuel, including natural gas, is burned. When fossil fuels do not burn properly, CO can build up and cause sickness and even death. Carbon monoxide kills about 200 people in the U.S. every year.

Homeowners, landlords, and building owners are required to install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors within 15 feet of rooms used for sleeping. This law applies only to those occupancies that use fossil fuel to cook, heat, or produce hot water, or occupancies that are connected to an enclosed garage.

The carbon monoxide detector may be battery operated, plug-in with battery back-up, or wired into the home's AC power with a secondary battery back-up. It must also bear the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory and must comply with the most recent standards of the Underwriters Laboratories.

Carbon Monoxide Detector Safety Measures:

- 1) Never heat your home with your gas range or oven.
- 2) Never burn charcoal inside your home or garage.
- 3) Always open the chimney flue when you use your fireplace.
- 4) Never run a combustion engine, such as your car, lawn mower or snow blower, in enclosed areas.
- 5) Install a CO detector:
- 6) Install a CO detector within 15' of any room used for sleeping in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 7) Do not install a CO detector near your kitchen or garage or in a room with a furnace.
- 8) If your CO detector goes off and you feel ill, leave the house and call 911 or the local fire department.
- 9) If you do not feel ill, push your detector's reset button. If the alarm goes off again after a few minutes, open the windows, leave the house and call 911 or the local fire department.

Recognize the symptoms of CO poisoning:

Dizziness, nausea, headache and coughing
Irregular heartbeat
Pale skin with cherry red lips and ear tips
Know what to do if you suspect CO poisoning:
Get fresh air and stay outside.
Call 911 or the local fire department.

More Information:

What is CO (Carbon Monoxide)? Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fossil fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, kerosene, and methane) burn incompletely. Heating and cooking equipment burning these types of fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running nearby or in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.