



City of Fitchburg



NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS - 12+

Guidelines for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Buildings with 12 or more dwelling units **MUST** have a Fire Alarm Panel that is Monitored by a Fire Alarm Company

| Year Built or Substantially Modified | Before 1975 * | 1975 - 8/27/97 * | 8/27/97 - 2007 * | 1/08 - 2/11 * | 2/11 - Present * |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|

All Smoke Alarms Shall Be Ceiling Mounted

| Smoke Alarm Power Supply | Hardwired, interconnected w/ battery backup *** | Hardwired, interconnected w/ battery backup *** | Hardwired, interconnected w/ battery backup *** | Hardwired, interconnected w/ battery backup *** | Hardwired, interconnected w/ battery backup *** |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|

Type of Smoke Alarm Technology

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| On the same level, if a required detector is located more than 20 ft. from a kitchen or full bathroom doorway it shall be: ** | Photoelectric Only | Photoelectric Only | Photoelectric Only | Photoelectric Only | Photoelectric Only |
| On the same level, if a required detector is located within 20 ft. of a kitchen or full bathroom doorway it shall be: ** | Photoelectric Only | Photoelectric Only | Photoelectric Only | Photoelectric Only | Photoelectric Only |

Smoke Alarm Placement

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| On every habitable level & including the basement level, on the <u>ceiling</u> ; at the base of each stairway leading to an occupied floor above. | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke |
| On the <u>ceiling</u> outside EACH sleeping area (in hallway, not more than 10 ft. from each bedroom door) | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke & CO Combo |
| Inside every bedroom | Not Required | Not Required | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke |
| Finished Attic (Habitable & HEATED) | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke | Smoke |
| Finished Attic (Habitable & UNHEATED) | Heat Detector | Heat Detector | Heat Detector | Heat Detector | Heat Detector |
| Garage (Attached) | Not Required | Not Required | Not Required | Heat Detector | Heat Detector |
| Common Hallway | Smoke, Interconnected with Panel | Smoke, Interconnected with Panel | Smoke, Interconnected with Panel | Smoke, Interconnected with Panel | Smoke, Interconnected with Panel |
| Basement | Smoke & CO Combo, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company | Smoke & CO Combo, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company | Smoke & CO Combo, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company | Smoke & CO Combo, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company | Smoke & CO Combo, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company |
| Kitchen | Heat Detector, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company | Heat Detector, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company | Heat Detector, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company | Heat Detector, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company | Heat Detector, Interconnected, Fire Alarm Panel supervised by a Fire Alarm Company |

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Power Supply & Placement

| | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Battery or Plug-In w/ Battery Backup | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed | Not Allowed | Not Allowed |
| Hardwired, Interconnected w/ Battery Backup | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed | Required | Required |

Alarm Placement: A CO alarm shall be located on each habitable level, including finished/habitable portions of basements and attics. A CO alarm shall be placed in the hallway **OUTSIDE** each separate sleeping area (where bedrooms are located), no farther than 10 ft. from ANY bedroom door.

→EFFECTIVE 1/1/2015 SMOKE DETECTORS OLDER THAN 10 YEARS MUST BE REPLACED WITH NEW ALARMS * ←

* Upon replacement of expired (≥ 10 years old) detectors, all new detectors must meet current code requirements regardless of the year built

** FFD recommends Photoelectric (Smoke) and CO Combo Detectors throughout all heated spaces for maximum efficiency

*** Interconnected within each individual dwelling unit

• One Smoke Alarm is needed for each 1,200 square feet of area, per floor

• Combination Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms MUST have a Tone and Voice ("Annunciation") Feature

• Any building required to be equip with a sprinkler system MUST have a Fire Alarm Panel that is supervised by a Fire Alarm Company

This document is a guideline. If you have any questions please contact the Fitchburg Fire Prevention Bureau at (978) 345-9672.