



Fire Prevention Bureau
15 Mountain Blvd.
Watchung, NJ 07069
Office: 908-756-0091

CERTIFICATE OF SMOKE ALARM AND CARBON MONOXIDE

ALARM COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

SMOKE ALARMS:

- Smoke Alarms shall be installed on each level of the residence
- Smoke Alarms shall be installed in the immediate vicinity of each sleeping area.
- Smoke Alarms shall either be hard wired, electrical detectors or 10 YEAR sealed battery powered Alarms.

Combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms are allowed

Note: If hard wired (line voltage) smoke alarms were previously required by Code, they cannot be replaced with battery powered smoke alarms

- All Smoke Alarms shall be checked for operation after installation

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS:

- Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall be installed in the immediate vicinity of each sleeping area
- Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall be battery operated, hard wired or plug-in type
- Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall not be more than 7 years old

Combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms are allowed

- All Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall be checked for operation after installation

Questions shall be forwarded to the Watchung Fire Prevention Office at 908-756-0091 ext 235

Or E-mail to fireofficial@watchungnj.gov

WHERE TO LOCATE DETECTORS:

Detectors are to be located on every level of a residence, (basement, first floor, second floor) excluding crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in every separate sleeping area, between sleeping areas and living areas such as the kitchen, garage, basement or utility room. In homes with only one sleeping area on one floor, a detector is to be placed in the hallway outside the bedrooms as shown in Figure 1. In single floor homes with two separate sleeping areas, two detectors are required, outside each sleeping area as shown in Figure 2. In multi-level homes, detectors are to be located outside sleeping areas and at every finished level of the home as shown in Figure 3. Basement level detectors are to be located in close proximity to the bottom of basement stairwells as shown in Figure 4.

WHERE NOT TO LOCATE DETECTORS:

To avoid false alarms and/or improper operation, avoid installation of smoke detectors in the following areas:

Kitchens-smoke from cooking may cause a nuisance alarm.

Bathrooms-excessive steam from a shower may cause a nuisance alarm.

Near forced air ducts-used for heating or air conditioning-air movement may prevent smoke from reaching detector.

Near furnaces of any type-air and dust movement and normal combustion products may cause a nuisance alarm.

The 4 inch "Dead Air" space where the ceiling meets the wall, as shown in Figure 5.

The peak of an "A" frame type of ceiling-"Dead Air" at the top may prevent smoke from reaching detector.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON DETECTOR PLACEMENT:

For further information about smoke detector placement consult the National Protection Association's Standard No. 74-1984, titled "Household Fire Warning Equipment." For Carbon monoxide alarms, their publication is Recommended Practice #720. These publications may be obtained by writing to the Publication Sales Department, National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA. 02269.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS are to be located in every separate sleeping area per NFPA 720 and manufacturer's recommendations.

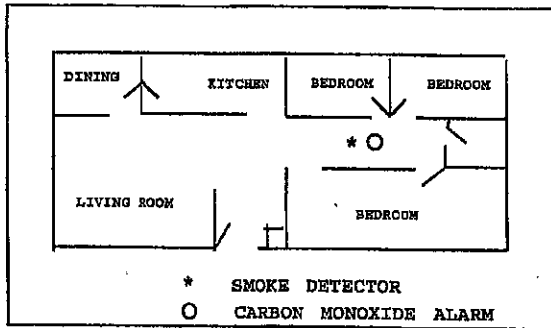


Figure 1

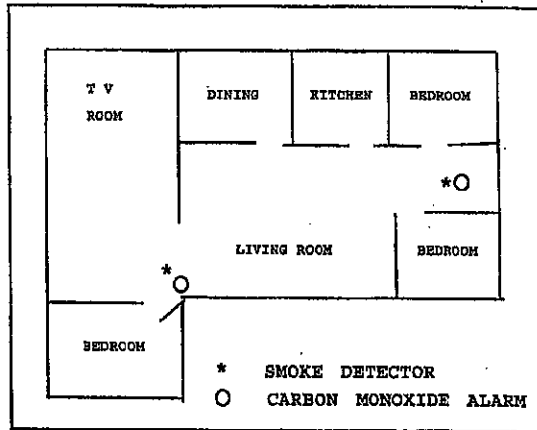


Figure 2

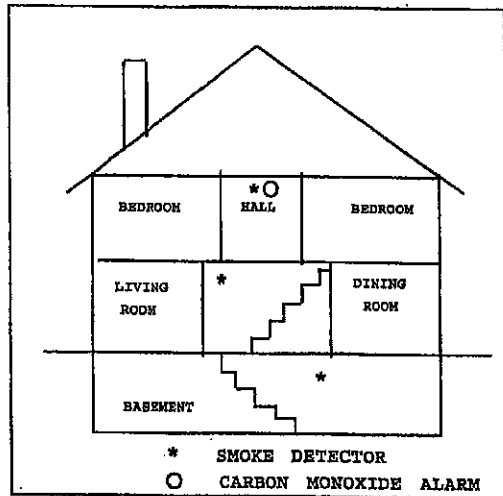


Figure 3

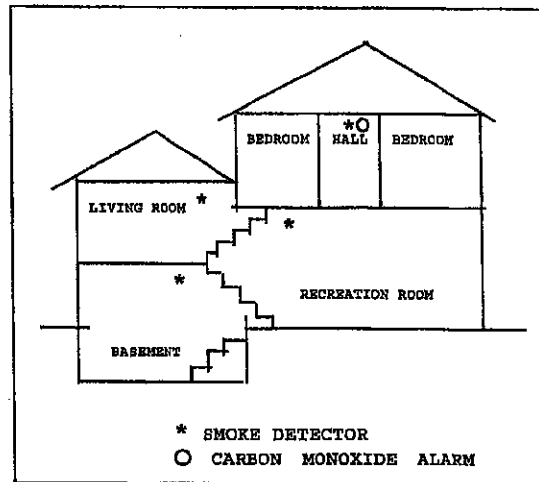


Figure 4

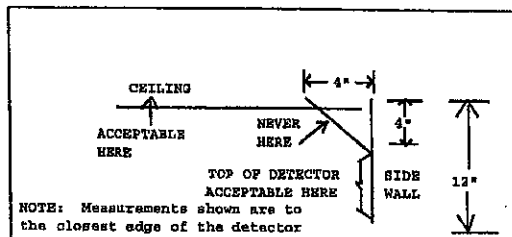


Figure 5

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
15 MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD
WATCHUNG, NJ 07069**

For Immediate Release:
February XX, 2019

Contact: Tammori Petty, Gina Trish, Lisa Ryan
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
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DCA NEWS

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LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Commissioner

New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Adopts New Regulation Requiring Use of 10-Year Sealed Battery Smoke Alarms

New Technology Helps to Reduce Fire Injuries and Deaths

TRENTON, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Division of Fire Safety is informing residents of a new smoke alarm regulation, effective January 1, 2019, which requires 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms be installed in homes built before January 1, 1977. The requirement includes one- and two-family dwellings, motel rooms, and housing units in rooming houses. The State's Uniform Construction Code requires all homes built after January 1, 1977 to have alternating current (ac) hardwired alarms installed inside the dwellings, and those homes are not affected by the new regulation.

"The importance of working smoke alarms cannot be overstated," said Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, who also serves as DCA Commissioner. "It is extremely important to quickly detect a fire and provide early warning to occupants to enable them to safely escape. The key to early detection is having a working smoke alarm."

The most common cause of a smoke alarm not functioning is the lack of a working battery. Often, the battery is removed so it can be used somewhere else or the battery no longer has the necessary charge. Batteries are also removed to prevent nuisance alarms from cooking. For this reason, DCA's Division of Fire Safety proposed and adopted regulations that require the use of 10-year sealed battery type smoke alarms. This technology precludes an individual from removing the battery, thus maintaining a working alarm. Also, the 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms are designed to last 10 years and be replaced. Utilizing this new technology to ensure a working smoke alarm will go a long way to reducing fire injuries and deaths.

One- and two- family dwellings will need to comply with these new requirements prior to sale or change of occupancy. Local fire inspectors will check for these new alarms during routine annual inspections in motels and rooming houses. Regardless of the age or condition of smoke alarms currently installed, all affected alarms must be replaced with 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms. Violation notices will be issued to property owners where the 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms are not installed. Local fire

officials and property owners are encouraged to work together to establish a reasonable timetable for compliance.

This new requirement does not apply to low voltage alarm systems, alternating current (AC) hardwired alarms and Carbon Monoxide alarms. Combination Carbon Monoxide alarm and smoke alarm single station devices are required to be of the 10-year sealed battery type.

The Division of Fire Safety serves as the central fire service agency in the State. The Division is responsible for the development and enforcement of the State Uniform Fire Code, as well as for implementing community risk reduction and firefighter training programs.

DCA was established in 1967 and today offers a wide range of programs and services, including affordable housing production, fire safety and building safety, community planning and development, local government management and finance, and disaster recovery.

For more information about DCA, visit <https://nj.gov/dca/> or follow the Department on social media:



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The requirements for smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in New Jersey vary based on the year the house was built. Here are the general requirements:

Homes built prior to January 1977: Battery operated smoke detectors on each level, including the basement, and outside of each sleeping area within 10 feet of bedroom doors. Combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms are allowed to fulfill the requirement.

Homes built from January 1977 to September 1978: A/C-powered smoke detectors on sleeping levels and the basement, with battery operated detectors on all other levels.

Homes built from October 1978 to January 1983: A/C-powered smoke detectors on all levels, including the basement, with battery-operated detectors on all other levels.

Homes built from February 1983 to July 1984: A/C-powered smoke detectors on all levels, including the basement, with battery-operated detectors on all other levels.

Homes built from August 1984 to February 1991: A/C-powered smoke detectors on each level, including the basement, with battery-operated detectors on all other levels.

Homes built from March 1991 to the Present: A/C-powered smoke detectors with battery backup on each level, including the basement, and inside each bedroom. These requirements ensure that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and maintained to meet safety standards, especially in areas where there are sleeping areas. It is important to follow the specific requirements based on the year the house was built to ensure compliance with New Jersey's fire safety regulations.