



City of Fitchburg



NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS - 2-5

Guidelines for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Year Built or Substantially Modified	Before 1975 *	1975 - 8/27/97 *	8/27/97 - 2007 *	1/08 - 2/11 *	2/11 - Present *
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All Smoke Alarms Shall Be Ceiling Mounted

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

Smoke Alarm Placement

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				
Garage (Attached)	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Heat Detector	Heat Detector
Common Hallway	Smoke, Interconnected				
Basement	Smoke & CO Combo, Interconnected				

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 equipped 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.