



City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

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26F INSPECTIONAL SERVICES – WIRELESS DETECTOR LOCAL GUIDE (8-25-2020)

Given the recent review of information by State and Local requirements in regard to wireless detection in residential properties, the Fire Prevention office has been working with Chief Marrama to discuss what appears to work and what doesn't in regard to our own City of Fitchburg demographics with large, older homes in heavily clustered neighborhoods with poor ladder/rescue and roof access due to above ground utility poles. The Fire Prevention Bureau is aware that certain allowances are allowed by Building/Fire Code. It is important to note that in 1984 the City of Fitchburg Fire Chief took initiative through local legal interpretation (November 9th 1984) that **NO** single unit battery power smoke detector will be approved by the Fitchburg Fire Prevention Bureau. The Fire Chief at that time made a Public release that only **permanently wired smoke detectors (hard-wired)** will be approved in the City of Fitchburg.

Chief Marrama was recently asked to review the hard-wire requirements as wireless systems are making new technology available. After an "Act of Safety" review in regard to wireless detection, Chief Anthony Marrama **WILL** maintain the written interpretation of Chief James Keane, Chief Lillie, and Chief Roy since November 1984 in regard to **NOT** allowing primary battery powered detectors. Chief Anthony Marrama, with review of the Fire Prevention office has also offered the following allowances in regard to wireless fire alarm systems:

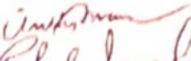
Fire Prevention office **WILL** approve wireless fire alarm systems under the following criteria:

- An electrical permit be pulled for the system with plan review of the Building Dept/Wire Inspector
- The system have a control panel that supervises the wireless signal between detectors. The system be able to demonstrate a supervisory signal if the wireless detection between detectors is lost.
- The individual wireless smoke detector/alarm heads be primary powered 12V/110V.
- The residential allowance of wireless fire alarm systems be limited from 1 to 5 family residential buildings.
- Full review and testing of the Smoke/CO requirements – FD has provided online guides.
www.ci.fitchburg.ma.us/203

Fire Prevention office **WILL NOT** approve individual wireless fire alarm detectors for the following reasons:

- The revision as submitted by the Chief in 1984 stated: Approval of smoke detectors that are **PERMANENTLY** wired. Since 1975 the code has required hard-wired and interconnected detectors. The hard wire serves as the interconnection medium between the devices. Because the wireless detectors are **NOT** permanently wired the Chief has upheld the permanent wire requirement.
- The term "**wireless**" counteracts the term "**permanently wired**".
- The wireless signal is **NOT** supervised through a control panel as in a full system (Allowed above).
- **WE ADVISE:** Though we don't typically allow this type of wireless detector for **required** detectors, we encourage the use of them for additional protection above what is required of the Fire Code. A lot of the wireless devices now offer hard-wire hookup and hard-wire interconnection wire as well as wireless technology.

From the Fire Prevention office to your homes, please find these requirements as a safety initiative. Maintain your detectors with back-up battery changes and test them for good working order. People are going to be spending a lot more time in their homes and we wish them to be protected and safe. The Fire Prevention office is willing to review and answer any of your questions with this confusing topic.

Chief Anthony Marrama - 
Lt. Philip Jordan - 