

# REQUIREMENTS FOR SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

## SMOKE ALARMS

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years (or per manufacturer's instructions).
- Smoke alarm batteries should be changed every year.

### Smoke alarms are required:

- MN Statue 299R.662 requires smoke alarms installed in every residential dwelling in Minnesota. Each dwelling until must be provided with UL 217 listed smoke alarms installed in accordance with NFPA 72 and MRC 314. (Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are permitted in lieu of smoke alarms and must be listed UL 217 and UL 2034.)

### Smoke alarms must be installed:

- In each sleeping room.
- Outside and within the immediate vicinity (within 21' per NFPA 72) of each separate sleeping area.
- On each additional story of the dwelling including basements and habitable attics.

### Installation requirements:

- Smoke alarms shall be installed not less than 3' horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a shower or tub unless this would conflict with other placement requirements such as minimum distance from a bedroom.
- Ionizing alarms shall not be installed closer than 20' to a cooking appliance. Ionization alarms with a silencing switch may be placed no closer than 10' to a cooking appliance.
- Photoelectric alarms shall not be installed closer than 6' to a cooking appliance.
- Wall mounted alarms should be located inside an area not more than 12" and not less than 4" from the ceiling (or per the manufacturer's requirements).
- Ceiling mounted alarms should be no closer than 4" from a side wall or peak of a vaulted ceiling.
- Alarms must be more than 36" from the tip of a ceiling fan blade, forced air supply register, or door to a bathroom that contains a tub or shower.
- Smoke alarms shall not be installed within a 36-inch horizontal path from the supply registers of a forced air heating or cooling system and shall be installed outside of the direct airflow from those registers.
- Alarms should be mounted on an interior wall.
- Alarms should be mounted away from windows and exterior doors.

### Interconnection:

- Where more than one alarm is required to be installed, the devices shall be interconnected either by physical interconnection, or by a wireless interconnection.  
*Exception: Interconnection is **not** required in existing areas where the alterations or repairs do not involve the removal of interior ceiling or wall finishes exposing the structure.*

### Power Source:

- Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring & shall have a battery backup.  
*Exceptions: Battery operated alarms shall be permitted in buildings without commercial power. Alarms in existing areas shall be permitted to be battery operated when the alterations or repairs do not involve the removal of the interior ceiling or wall finishes exposing the structure.*

# REQUIREMENTS FOR SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

## CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

*Carbon monoxide is a silent killer. It is a poisonous, colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas produced by burning gasoline, wood, propane, charcoal, or other fuel. Improperly ventilated appliances and engines may allow carbon monoxide to accumulate to dangerous levels. Large amounts can overcome you in minutes without warning.*

- Carbon Monoxide alarms should be replaced every 6 years (or per manufacturer's instructions).
- Carbon Monoxide alarm batteries should be changed every 6 months.

### Carbon monoxide alarms are required:

- MN Statue 299R.51 & MRC R315 require carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in every residential dwelling containing a fuel-fired appliance, and/or has an attached garage that communicates with the dwelling unit.
- Carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed UL 2034. (Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are permitted and must be listed UL 217 and UL 2034.)

### Carbon monoxide alarms must be installed:

- Outside and within 10' of every sleeping room.
- On each level containing a sleeping room.
- Inside each sleeping room where that room or an attached bathroom contains a fuel-fired appliance.

### Interconnection:

- Where more than one alarm is required to be installed, the devices shall be interconnected either by physical interconnection, or by a wireless interconnection.  
*Exception: Interconnection is **not** required in existing areas where the alterations or repairs do not involve the removal of interior ceiling or wall finishes exposing the structure.*

### Power Source:

- Carbon monoxide alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring & shall have a battery backup.  
*Exceptions: Battery operated alarms shall be permitted in buildings without commercial power. Alarms in existing areas shall be permitted to be battery operated when the alterations or repairs do not involve the removal of the interior ceiling or wall finishes exposing the structure.*

### ! NOTICE

This document is intended as a general guide (rather than a complete set of requirements). It's purpose is to inform the homeowner of the requirements at the beginning of the project in an effort to minimize any inconvenience and/or cost associated with an additional inspection if the work described in this handout is not completed before the final inspection.

The improvements undertaken at this property require the inspection of properly installed smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, as required by MN Statute 299F.362, 299R.51, and in accordance with NFPA 72 and MN Residential Code (MRC) R314 & R315. Materials and installation must comply with current Minnesota State Building Codes and the manufacturers' installation specifications for each project.

**If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [customerfirst@crew2.com](mailto:customerfirst@crew2.com)**