



FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS RESIDENTIAL SMOKE AND CO DETECTOR

CITY OF LACONIA FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
848 NORTH MAIN STREET, LACONIA, NH 03246

Call (603) 524-6881 for appointments and information

FIRE
PREVENTION
Smoke Detection
200-2
March, 2025

Definitions:

Automatic fire warning device - means a wall or ceiling mounted assembly containing an ionization chamber or photoelectric type of smoke detector, control equipment, and audible alarm in one unit which detects visible or invisible particles of combustion and which, upon detection of smoke, activates the alarm.

Building - means any structure, framework, or housing, public or private, excluding single-family dwellings and multi-unit dwellings as defined, but including tanks, receptacles, and containers for the storage of commodities or other materials.

Multi-unit Dwelling - means any structure not defined above as a building, which contains two or more single units which provide permanent or transient living facilities which may or may not include cooking and eating facilities, for one or more persons. This term shall include but not be limited to rooming houses, dormitories, motels, hotels, apartment buildings, buildings which contain condominium units, duplexes, and houses; provided, however, that such buildings contain two or more units.

Rental Unit - means any residential unit in a building or single-family dwelling, which provides permanent or transient living facilities for one or more persons, which is occupied by tenants on a rental basis. This term shall include but not be limited to hotels, motels, dormitories, apartments, duplex units, rooms rented out of the home of another, and single-family dwellings, so long as they are rented.

Single-Family Dwelling - means any structure not defined above as a building which contains one dwelling unit, which is designed to be occupied for living purposes, and which is used by one, two or more families exclusively as a home.

Substantially Rehabilitated - means any improvement to a building or single-family dwelling, which is valued at an amount greater than 1/2 of the assessed valuation of the building or dwelling. Please note this amount is based on the assessed value not the resale value. AHJ reserves the right to bring a building up to current code requirements if the improvements will benefit the life safety of occupants.

1.) SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS:

When They Are Required:

Smoke alarms shall be installed in all (new and existing) single-family dwellings regardless of the original construction date.

Locations of Installation:

Smoke alarms shall be installed on the wall, or ceiling as specified in the manufacturers published inspection that accompany the unit.

New Construction:

Smoke alarm shall be installed as follows:

- In each sleeping room.
- Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
- On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split-levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
- Smoke alarm shall be installed not less than 3 feet horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent the placement of a smoke detector.
- Installations near cooking appliances; smoke alarms shall not be installed in the following locations unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm in a location required above.
 - Ionization smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 20 feet horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.
 - Ionization smoke alarms with an alarm-silencing switch shall not be installed less than 10 feet horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.
 - Photoelectric smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 6 feet horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.

Existing:

In each sleeping room.

Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms

On each level of the dwelling, including basements.

Powering the Detectors:

New Construction:

Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building's wiring (hardwired) where such wiring is served from a commercial power source and, where primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery (battery backup). Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection.

Smoke alarms shall be battery operated when installed in buildings without commercial power.

Existing:

Smoke alarms shall be permitted to be battery powered.

Required Interconnection of the Detectors:

New Construction:

Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. Physical interconnection of smoke alarms shall not be required where listed wireless alarms are installed and all alarms sound upon activation of one alarm.

Existing:

Interconnection of smoke alarms in existing construction is generally not required. However, interconnection or interconnection for an area may be required when alterations or renovations are made.

2.) MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS AND RENTAL UNITS:

When They Are Required:

Smoke alarms shall be installed in all multi-unit dwellings, regardless of the original construction date.

Locations of Installation:

New and Existing Construction:

- In each sleeping room.
- Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms
- On each level of the dwelling, including basements but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics.
- Installations near cooking appliances; smoke alarms shall not be installed in the following locations unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm in a location required above.
- Ionization smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 20 feet horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.
- Ionization smoke alarms with an alarm-silencing switch shall not be installed less than 10 feet horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.
- Photoelectric smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 6 feet horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.

Powering the Detectors:**New Construction:**

Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building's wiring (hardwired) where such wiring is served from a commercial power source and, where primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery (battery backup). Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection.

Existing Lodging or Rooming:

Battery powered smoke alarms, rather than house electric-powered smoke alarms, shall be permitted where the facility has demonstrated to the authority having jurisdiction that the testing, maintenance, and battery replacement programs will ensure reliability of power to the smoke alarms.

Existing Apartments, Hotels and Dormitories:

Smoke alarms shall be permitted to be battery powered.

Required Interconnection of the Detectors:

Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. Physical interconnection of smoke alarms shall not be required where listed wireless alarms are installed and all alarms sound upon activation of one alarm.

Existing:

Interconnection of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required where alterations and repairs do not result in removal of an interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available that could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (BOTH SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS)**Combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Devices: (Single, Multi and Rentals)**

Combination devices are permitted provided that they meet the requirements of UL 217 and UL2034. (1)

Maintenance of Devices Required: (Single-Family, Multi-Unit and Rentals)

The owner of the rental unit shall be responsible for maintaining the automatic fire warning device in a suitable condition. (3)