

Carbon Monoxide Alarms – Minnesota Statute §299F.50

Approved carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are required in all single family homes and multifamily apartment units with effective dates as follows:

- All new construction single family homes and multi-family dwellings where building permits were issued on or after January 1, 2007.
- All existing single family homes effective August 1, 2008.
- All existing multi-family or apartment dwelling units effective August 1, 2009

Listing Required

All carbon monoxide alarms must be certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory that conform to the latest Underwriters Laboratories (U/L) Standards known as UL-2034.

It is important to recognize the differences between a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide (CO) alarm. CO alarms activate based on the concentration of CO over a period of time; this allows for a brief period to ensure that everyone is alright and for the occupant(s) to investigate possible sources of CO accumulation within the home.



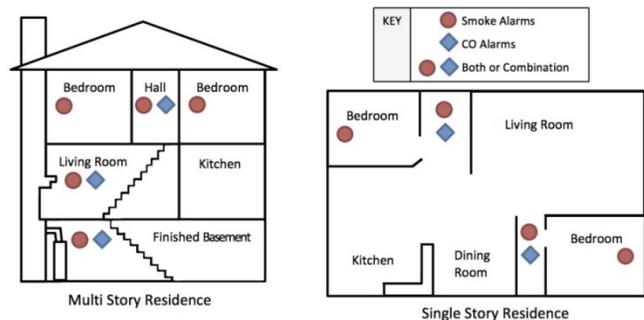
When a smoke alarm sounds, all occupants should immediately vacate the premise and call 911. Alternatively, if a CO alarm sounds in the residence a person should verify that the occupants are not showing signs of CO poisoning (headache, nausea, vomiting, disorientation, etc.). If anyone in the home has symptoms of CO poisoning, call 911 immediately. If no one has symptoms of CO poisoning, open windows or doors to allow fresh air to enter and contact the utility company or appliance repair company as soon as possible.

There is a difference between smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms and they shall not be used interchangeably, however combination smoke alarm/carbon monoxide alarms are acceptable.

Location

Every single family dwelling and every multifamily dwelling unit shall be provided with a minimum of one approved and fully operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within ten (10) feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes.

If bedrooms are located on separate floors additional carbon monoxide alarms would be necessary within ten feet of these areas. If bedrooms are located in



separate areas (on the same level), additional carbon monoxide alarms would be necessary within ten (10) feet of these areas. In lieu of installing multiple CO alarms in the hallway, a separate CO could be installed inside each sleeping room.

It is important that these devices be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installations instructions and not be placed in 'dead' air pockets such as corners of rooms, at the junction of walls and ceilings or within thirty-six (36) inches of ventilation ducts.

Multifamily dwellings

In multifamily dwellings it is the owner's responsibility to:

1. provide and install one approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm within ten feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping and,
2. replace any required carbon monoxide alarm that has been stolen, removed, found missing, or rendered inoperable during a prior occupancy of the dwelling unit and which has not been replaced by the occupant prior to the commencement of a new occupancy of a dwelling unit.

Battery removal and tampering prohibited

No person shall remove batteries from, or in any way render inoperable, a required carbon monoxide alarm.



Questions?

Contact the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division (651) 201-7200, www.fire.state.mn.us or firecode@state.mn.us.