

Smoke alarm requirements for residential occupancies

Smoke alarms are required in all residential occupancies including single family, apartments, hotels, rental housing, board and care, family day cares, etc.

These requirements may vary depending on the age of the building, whether it is a new or existing construction and whether the building currently has smoke alarms.

The rules are established in various locations in Minnesota statutes, Minnesota State Fire Code, and NFPA 72, the adopted reference standard.

Summary of residential smoke alarm requirements

Condition	Location	Power Supply	Interconnection	Reference
Buildings constructed on or after July 10, 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In hallways outside sleeping rooms • In sleeping rooms • On each level of the building and in basements • Ceiling (at least 4 inches from wall) or wall (4-12 inches below ceiling). • On center of ceiling above stairways 	All smoke alarms must be hard-wired (120 volt) with battery back-up	Yes. All devices must sound in all areas when activated.	MSFC 907.2.10.1.2
Existing buildings without smoke alarms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In hallways outside sleeping rooms • In sleeping rooms • On each level of the building and in basements • Ceiling (at least 4 inches from wall) or wall (4-12 inches below ceiling) • On center of ceiling above stairways 	<p>All smoke alarms must be hard-wired (120 volt) in buildings constructed on or after Aug. 1, 1989</p> <p>Smoke alarms in buildings constructed before Aug. 1, 1989 are permitted to be battery-powered</p>	No. Interconnection is not required	MSFC 907.3.6 exception