

## ONE, TWO, AND THREE FAMILY DWELLINGS SMOKE ALARMS

- As of February 20, 2004 all new residential units require hard-wired, interconnected smoke alarms with battery back up in the following areas: Outside each bedroom area and inside each bedroom. On each additional level including basements.
- In addition, interconnected heat detector(s) shall be installed in all integral or attached garages in dwelling units permitted or constructed after **February 20, 2004.**
- Wireless detectors shall be allowed provided that they are monitored by an approved system or panel and provided that such system meets all the audible requirements.
- While not required, it is highly recommended to place an additional smoke alarm at the top of the basement stairs.
- Existing construction permitted after **June, 1976** are required to maintain the previously required smoke alarms and they should be hardwired and interconnected. *These detectors shall be located outside the bedroom areas and on each level.*
- If the above units do not have the previously required hard-wired systems they shall be allowed to have battery operated alarms. Battery operated alarms shall not replace hard-wired alarms.
- Three family dwellings shall have hardwired, interconnected smoke alarms installed by **July 1, 2008.** Interconnected in common areas, separate from within each separate dwelling unit. (Also hard-wired)
- All other existing construction shall require smoke alarms outside each bedroom area and on each level. These will be permitted to be battery operated.

## **ONE, TWO, AND THREE FAMILY DWELLINGS CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) DETECTORS**

- All new residential (including apartments and condominiums) require hard-wired, interconnected CO alarms with battery back up outside the bedroom areas.
- In addition, the local authority having jurisdiction may require additional smoke or CO coverage in rooms or living areas having pull out sofas or other means of sleeping arrangements if in his/her judgment the room may be used for sleeping quarters on a regular or intermittent basis.
- Any dwelling permitted after **January 1, 2002** shall be required to have hardwired CO alarms with battery backup.
- All other existing construction shall be allowed to have battery operated CO alarms or plug in units. Plug in units must be restrained
- Exception: Dwellings that do not contain any fuel burning appliances, a fireplace or an attached or integrated garage are exempt from CO requirements. If any of these items are introduced later, then detection is required.

**Fire Marshal's Web Site**  
<http://www.fire-marshal.ri.gov>

**Fire Safety Code Web Site**  
<http://www.fsc.ri.gov>

REFERENCES; Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code 1 2003 Edition; Rhode Island Life Safety Code 101 2003 Edition; NFPA 72 2002 Edition; NFPA 720 2003 Edition

## **PLACEMENT OF SMOKE AND CO ALARMS**

- Ceiling mounted: At least 4 inches from any adjoining wall surface
- Wall mounted: Between 4 and 12 inches from the ceiling
- Peaked or sloped ceilings: Within 36 inches of the peak or high side of the slope, but no closer than 4 inches vertically or from an adjoining wall surface.
- Detectors shall not be installed within 36 inches of heating or cooling register, the tip of a ceiling paddle fan, a kitchen door or a bathroom door containing a tub or shower.
- Detectors within a 20 foot horizontal path of a cooking appliance shall be equipped with an alarm-silencing means or be of the photo electric type.
- Where stairs lead to other occupied levels, a smoke alarm or smoke detector shall be located so that smoke rising in the stairway cannot be prevented from reaching the smoke alarm or smoke detector by an intervening door or obstruction.
- For stairways leading up from a basement, smoke alarms or smoke detectors shall be located on the basement ceiling near the entry to the stairs.
- Near the first bedroom door in a hallway closest to the living area.
- Carbon monoxide detectors shall be installed as per manufacturer's recommendations outside each sleeping area.