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SMOKE ALARMS & CARBON MONOXIDE

Handout #06

The information in this handout provides general guidelines for the installation requirements of Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms in the City of Covina. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms are required to be installed in residences for every construction project whenever a building permit is required (2016 California Residential Code Section R314.2.2). Statistics show, in the United States alone, approximately 5,000 people die every year from fire, smoke inhalation, burns, and unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning. Therefore, the installation, testing, and proper maintenance of Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms may be the single most important fire safety feature in your home, potentially saving the lives of you and your loved ones in the event of a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

When are Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms required?

Every new residential construction project requires the installation of hardwired and interconnected Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms, in compliance with the 2016 California Building Code. In addition to new residential construction projects, Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms are required to be installed in residences for every construction project whenever a building permit is required (2016 California Residential Code Section R314.2.2). Carbon Monoxide Alarms are required to be installed in every dwelling unit containing a fuel burning appliance, fireplace, or if the dwelling unit has an attached garage (2016 CRC R315.2.1).

Where do I install Smoke Alarms?

- In each room used for sleeping purposes (usually bedroom).
- Outside of each separate sleeping area, in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms (usually hallway to bedrooms).
- In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements and habitable attics, 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 Alarms shall be installed not less than 3 feet horizontally from the door opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower.

Where do I install Carbon Monoxide Alarms?

- Outside of each separate sleeping area, in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms (usually hallway to bedrooms).
- On every occupied level of a dwelling unit, including basement.
- Where a fuel burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, a Carbon Monoxide Alarm shall be installed within the bedroom (for example, a bedroom with a fireplace).

Hardwired or Battery operated?

Every new construction project requires installation of hardwired alarms (alarms that receive their primary power from the building wiring) and interconnected alarms (if one alarm goes off, the rest of the alarms will be triggered). Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms with battery backup, per 2016 California Building Codes and alarm manufacturers' specifications, are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing areas of buildings undergoing alterations, remodels, or repairs, that do not result in the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for building wiring without the removal of interior finishes (2016 CRC R314.6, R315.5).