

# Carbon Monoxide

## Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

### Smoke Alarms

Fire deaths occur in residential buildings more than in any other building type. More than half of all fire deaths in residential buildings occur while the occupants are asleep and are unaware. Death usually results from asphyxiation, long before the fire reaches the occupants. Smoke alarms installed in a home give an early warning of smoke and give the occupants the critical few moments needed to escape.

### Location

State Code requires smoke alarms be provided on each floor of a dwelling and in the corridor giving access to bedrooms and in each bedroom.

Alarms in new construction must receive their power from the building wiring and have a battery backup in the event of electrical power loss. Alarms must be wired directly into the building's wiring system and no switches, plugs or mechanical disconnects are permitted between the electric service panel and the alarm. During remodeling, where connection to the building wiring is difficult to achieve, battery operated alarms may be used. Install per manufacturer's installation instructions. Do not install in dead air spaces.

### Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas generated by combustion processes, such as those found in furnaces and water heaters. Examples of sources of carbon monoxide include temporary heating unit fireplaces, compressors, pumps and other tools and small engines. Excessive exposure to carbon monoxide results in human tissue being deprived of oxygen. Carbon monoxide overexposure may cause chronic effects such as heart damage, or acute effects such as headaches, or, in extreme cases, death by asphyxiation.

### 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 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 feet of these areas. Install per manufacturer's installation instructions. Do not install in dead air spaces.

