

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



State Fire Marshal Division

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INFORMATION SHEET – SMOKE ALARM REQUIRMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES

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

The requirements vary by the age of the building. The requirements include:

- Whether this is a new or existing building.
- Whether the building currently has smoke alarms.
- Location of smoke alarms.
- Power supply for smoke alarms.
- Interconnection of smoke alarms.

The requirements are found in various locations in the state statutes, Minnesota State Fire Code, and the adopted reference standard (NFPA 72). Below is a matrix that summarizes the smoke alarm requirements:

Condition:	Location:	Power Supply:	Interconnection?:	Reference:
New buildings (constructed on or after 7/10/2007).	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard-wired (120 volt). • Battery back-up also required. 	Yes; must sound in all areas when activated.	MSFC 907.2.10.1.2
Existing buildings that do not have any smoke alarms (same as new).	<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. 	Constructed on or after 8/1/1989: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard-wired (120 volt). Constructed before 8/1/1989: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be battery-powered. 	No; interconnection is not required or possible with battery-powered alarms.	MSFC 907.3.6 (exception).

Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

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Emergency Communication Networks

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Office of Communications

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal



Condition:	Location:	Power Supply:	Interconnection?:	Reference:
Existing buildings (constructed on or after 8/1/1989).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In hallways outside sleeping rooms. • On each level and in basements. • Ceiling (at least 4 inches from wall) or wall (4-12 inches below ceiling). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard-wired (120 volt). 	No; interconnection is not required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFPA 72 11.5.1.1 (for location). • Minn. Stat. 299F.362, subd. 3a (for power supply).
Existing buildings (constructed before 8/1/1989).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In hallways outside sleeping rooms. • On each level and in basements. • Ceiling (at least 4 inches from wall) or wall (4-12 inches below ceiling). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be battery-powered. 	No; interconnection is not required or possible with battery-powered alarms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFPA 72 11.5.1.1 (for location). • Minn. Stat. 299F.362 (requires smoke alarms).
Replacement of smoke alarms in new and existing buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be installed in same locations as originally installed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power supply must be the same as the smoke alarms being replaced. 	Interconnection must be provided if it was present with the smoke alarms being replaced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSFC 102.1.1. • MSFC 901.4.

NOTE: Local municipalities are allowed to adopt ordinances having more restrictive smoke alarm requirements for single family homes. This must be done through a formal ordinance; not through a policy or interpretation. Persons should check with the city code officials to see if more restrictive smoke alarm ordinances are in effect in the community.

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