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State Fire Marshal Division

444 Cedar Street, Suite 145, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-5145 Phone: 651/201-7200 FAX: 651/215-0525 TTY: 651/282-6555 Internet: http://www.fire.state.mn.us

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).	 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. 	 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).	 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: • Hard-wired (120 volt). Constructed before 8/1/1989: • Can be battery- powered.	No; interconnection is not required or possible with battery-powered alarms.	MSFC 907.3.0 (exception).

Condition:	Location:	Power Supply:	Interconnection?:	Reference:
Existing buildings (constructed on or after 8/1/1989).	 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). 	• Hard-wired (120 volt).	No; interconnection is not required.	 NFPA 72 11.5.1.1 (for location). Minn. Stat. 299F.362, subd. 3a (for power supply).
Existing buildings (constructed before 8/1/1989).	 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). 	• Can be battery- powered.	No; interconnection is not required or possible with battery-powered alarms.	 NFPA 72 11.5.1.1 (for location). Minn. Stat. 299F.362 (requires smoke alarms).
Replacement of smoke alarms in new and existing buildings.	• Must be installed in same locations as originally installed.	• 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.	 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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