Guidelines for Placement of Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Smoke Alarms
- All smoke alarms shall be listed and installed in accordance with the provisions of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 72 and shall conform to the latest UL standards.
- **Hard wired smoke alarms** shall be installed in all newly constructed residential homes. (2012 IRCR314)
- Install smoke alarms per manufacturer’s recommendation.
- Check the date on your smoke alarms to determine how old they are. The NFPA recommends replacing alarms every ten years.
- Check your alarms every month and replace batteries every year.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms
- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a toxic, colorless, odorless gas that is formed as a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon or a carbon compound.
- Poisoning is caused by inhalation of CO. There are many symptoms for CO poisoning including headache, nausea, confusion and shortness of breath. (2012 IRCR315)
- State law (299F.50) requires CO detectors be placed in new and existing residential structures. CO effective dates are as follows:
  - Code requirements can be found online at [www.fire.state.mn.us](http://www.fire.state.mn.us) or call 651-201-7200.

Alterations, Repairs or Additions in Accordance with 2012 IRCR 314.3.1
- When alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, or when sleeping room(s) are added or created in an existing dwelling, it shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings.
- The smoke alarms shall be hard wired except when alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of walls or ceilings exposing the structure, unless there is an attic or basement available which could provide access for hard wiring.
**Rental Properties**
- Brooklyn Center City Ordinances (Section 5-203) requires that smoke detectors be installed in all rental properties. They shall be located in each sleeping room, outside of each separate sleeping area in the vicinity of the bedrooms and on each level.
- It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep and maintain a maintenance log for smoke detectors. Logs will be checked by the City at the time of the rental license renewal.

**Location**
The State Building Code states that smoke alarms and CO must be located:
- In each sleeping room-smoke only
- Outside each sleeping room in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping rooms-smoke and CO.
- On each story including basements, but excluding crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics-smoke only.

![Diagram of smoke alarm locations](image)

**Working smoke alarms are essential, but they do not save lives unless everyone knows how to get out of the house safely. The peak time for residential fires is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Make sure everyone knows how to escape when the alarm sounds, whether awake or sleeping at the time. Plan two ways out of each room and a pre-arranged meeting place outside.**