HOME SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION GUIDE

Required Locations
Smoke alarms (detectors) must be located properly in order to provide early warning of fires. They should be located in all of the following locations:

- In every bedroom
- In hallways outside of bedrooms
- At the top of stairs inside the home
- On each level if dwelling has two or more levels

Smoke alarms should not be located:

- Near heaters or heater vents
- Directly outside bathroom doors
- In kitchens
- In garages

Dust, water vapor and cooking can all cause false alarms. Smoke alarms should not be located in areas where these materials are produced.

Mounting Guidelines

- Smoke alarms should be located on smooth flat ceilings if possible.
- If mounting on sloped ceilings, smoke alarms should be place near the peak (top) of the ceiling.
- Smoke alarms on ceiling should not be placed closer than 4 inches to the adjoining wall.
- If the smoke alarm must be mounted on the wall near the ceiling, the top of the detector should be placed within 4 to 12 inches of the ceiling.

Should you have any questions please call your local Fire Department.
Carbon Monoxide Safety

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department’s non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

[Image of a CO alarm]

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT

Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

FACTS

⚠️ A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.

⚠️ In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 61,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of seven calls per hour.
As of July 1, 2011, the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act (Senate Bill – SB 183) will require all single-family homes with an attached garage or a fossil fuel source to install carbon monoxide alarms within the home by July 1, 2011. Owners of multi-family leased or rental dwellings, such as apartment buildings, have until January 1, 2013 to comply with the law.

For more detailed information regarding local enforcement of this law please contact your City's Building Department.

1. What is Senate Bill No. 183 (SB-183)?
SB-183 is also known as the “Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act” This senate bill requires that a carbon monoxide (CO) detector be installed in all dwelling units intended for human occupancy.

2. What is Carbon Monoxide?
Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced from heaters, fireplaces, furnaces, and many types of appliances and cooking devices. It can also be produced by vehicles that are idling.

3. What is the effective date for installing a CO device?
For a single-family dwelling, the effective date is July 1, 2011. For all other dwelling units, the effective date is January 1, 2013.

4. Where can I find a list of all CSFM listed carbon monoxide devices?
Click on the link titled “List of Approved Devices”.

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/strucfireengineer_bml.php

5. What is the definition of a dwelling unit?
A dwelling unit is defined as a single-family dwelling, duplex, lodging house, dormitory, hotel, motel, condominium, time-share project, or dwelling unit in a multiple-unit dwelling unit building.

6. Where should CO devices be installed in homes?
They should be installed outside each sleeping areas and on every level of the home including the basement. The manufacturer’s installation instruction should also be followed.
7. How many types of CO devices are available?
There are three types. 1) Carbon Monoxide alarms (CSFM category # 5276), 2) Carbon Monoxide detectors (CSFM category # 5278), and 3) combination smoke/Carbon Monoxide detector (CSFM category # 7256 or 7257).

8. Are CO devices required to be approved by the State Fire Marshal?
Yes. SB-183 prohibits the marketing, distribution, or sale of devices unless it is approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal.

9. If someone has a CO device that is not listed by the State Fire Marshal prior to the law, can they maintain it or does it have to be replaced?
The law required that CO devices to be approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal. It does not prohibit someone who already owns the device prior to the effective date of Senate Bill (SB) 183.

10. Where does one obtain a copy of a California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) listing of CO device?
Copies of CSFM listing of CO devices can be found on the State Fire Marshal website by logging on the following:
http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting_bml_searchcotest.php
Under “Category”, click on the sort by “Number” button, then go to the drop down menu (right down arrow) to select “5276-CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS” or “5278-CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS”. Then Click on “Search” and it will list all CO alarms or detectors that are currently approved and listed by the OSFM.

11. Where can I go to receive further information on Carbon Monoxide?
You may go the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE) web site at http://www.fire.ca.gov and click on Carbon Monoxide under “Hot Topics”.

12. Who can we contact at CAL-FIRE/CSFM for additional information?
Questions regarding carbon monoxide devices may be addressed to Deputy Mike Tanaka at (916)445-8533 or mike.tanaka@fire.ca.gov