

Smoke Detectors & Carbon Monoxide Alarms

This handout is intended only as a guide and is based in part on the 2015 Minnesota State Building Code, Isanti City ordinances, and good building practice. While every attempt has been made to insure the correctness of this handout, no guarantees are made to its accuracy or completeness. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the owner or contractor. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the applicable codes or contact the Isanti Building Department.



Any time permitted work is done that requires interior access to inspect for permit compliance; smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms must be properly installed and functional. Smoke & CO alarms will be checked as part of a final inspection, so before calling for a final inspection it is the responsibility of the building owner to ensure that all detectors are compliant. Exterior permitted work that does not require interior access is exempt from this provision (examples include: roofing, siding, decks, and porches).

Smoke alarm required locations & connectivity: Smoke alarms must be installed:

- in each sleeping room
- outside of each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms
- on each story of the dwelling including basements and habitable attics

In all new construction and in existing construction where *alterations* or repairs expose adequate framing, smoke alarms must be hard wired and have a battery backup. If required to be hard wired, smoke alarms must also be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the dwelling unit. Circuits containing smoke alarms are not permitted to have a disconnecting switch other than those required for over current protection.

Carbon monoxide alarm required locations: In dwellings with attached garages and/or where fuel fired appliances exist, Carbon Monoxide alarms must be installed per code: *outside and not more than 10 feet from each separate sleeping area or bedroom. Alarms shall be installed on each level containing sleeping areas or bedrooms.*

A combination Smoke/CO alarm and detector may be used outside sleeping rooms to fulfill both Smoke and CO location requirements.



References

2015 MN Residential Code SECTION R314 SMOKE ALARMS
2015 MN Statute 299F.51 REQUIREMENTS FOR CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS
2015 MN Residential Code SECTION R315 CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS