

## Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms Requirements for ALL Residential Uses

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### Carbon Monoxide Alarms



Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas that can build up to lethal concentrations in enclosed spaces and goes undetected. Exposure to this gas can cause flu like symptoms such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, and more serious effects such as confusion, drowsiness, loss of consciousness and even death.

Carbon monoxide is produced by malfunctioning fuel fired appliances, for example a furnace or water heater, as well as car exhaust. CO forms during combustion where an appliance converts fuel to heat. Solid fuel-fired appliances also convert fuel to heat and are a potential source of CO such as wood or pellet furnaces, fireplaces, and stoves.

New regulations requires that all buildings with a residential occupancy containing a fuel-burning appliance and / or an attached garage require CO alarms. CO alarms must conform to CAN/CSA 6.19 “Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices” and fastened at a height recommended by the manufacturer. Houses are permitted to have tamper-proof CO alarms, combination CO / Smoke alarms or CO plug-in alarms with a 10 year integrated battery.

### Smoke Alarms



As a primary life safety device, working smoke alarms installed correctly in a building play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. If there is a fire in a house, smoke spreads fast. You need an advance warning system, provided by smoke alarms to alert you to get out.

The number one ignition source in all preventable house fires is cooking equipment that causes clothing, cooking oil or other flammable liquids to burn. Nationwide, 4,000 house fires occur annually in Canada resulting in an average of 377 deaths and 3,048 injuries per year. According to SGI Canada 21 out of 100 preventable residential fires are fatal and SGI adds that of those fires more than one-third of the houses did NOT have working smoke alarms.

New regulations require that ALL residential occupancies shall install smoke alarms where required. Smoke alarms are required in each bedroom and in the hallway which serves the bedrooms, they are also required on each story of a house including the basement. With respect to a house fire, fires are most likely to start in the kitchen, bedroom or living room.

All smoke alarms must comply with CAN/ULC-S531 “Smoke Alarms” and shall be installed on or near the ceiling in the room, corridor or hallway where they are required.