



Ashland Fire Department

Ashland Public Safety Building
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KEITH ROBIE
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

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FIRE PREVENTION

INFORMATION FOR PROPER PLACEMENT OF SMOKE & CO DETECTORS IF SELLING OR REFINANCING YOUR HOME

No certificate will be issued for any dwelling which does not have **HOUSE NUMBERS** at least **3 inches tall** (and in a contrasting color) mounted on the house, if the house is visible from the street, **or** on the house **and** on both sides of the mailbox, if the house is not visible from the street.

Hardwired Smoke Detectors need to be on a **lighted circuit** (Kitchen, Bathroom, or Hall Light)

ALL SMOKE DETECTORS MUST BE CEILING MOUNTED

As of January 1, 2015: All Smoke and Heat Detectors must be <10 years old and CO Detectors must be <7 years old.

In typical one – and two family residences permitted before 1975

There shall be battery powered or hardwired SMOKE DETECTORS

- On each habitable level(including basement) of the residence
- At the bottom of each stairway
- Outside of each separate sleeping area
- **Must use Photoelectric type detector. (Can be a combination ionization / photoelectric that talks.)**
- New detectors must have a HUSH silence feature and a 10 year sealed battery.

In typical one – and two- family residences permitted between 1975 and August 27, 1997

There shall be **hardwired interconnected** SMOKE DETECTORS

- On each habitable level (including basement) of the residence
- Minimum of one detector for every 1,200 square feet of living space per level
- At the bottom of each stairway
- Outside of each separate sleeping area.
- **Photoelectric** type detectors must be used in all locations.
- Combination alarms must have both a tone and simulated voice alarm to distinguish the type of emergency.

In typical one – and two-family residences permitted after August 27, 1997

There shall be **hardwired interconnected** SMOKE DETECTORS with battery back-up

- On each habitable level(including basement) of the residence
- Minimum of one detector for every 1,200 square feet of living space per level
- At the bottom of each stairway
- Outside of each separate sleeping area
- Within each bedroom
- **Photoelectric** type detectors must be used in all locations.
- Houses built after 2011 **MUST** be all Photoelectric.
- Combination alarms must have both a tone and simulated voice alarm to distinguish the type of emergency.

HEAT DETECTORS

- **Any garage that has existing Heat Detectors are required to be compliant with the current code, which is having a test button and Hard Wired Interconnected to all other smoke detectors in the house.**

IF YOUR HOME DOES NOT PASS INSPECTION, YOU WILL HAVE TO RESCHEDULE A RE-INSPECTION, AND PAY A \$25.00 RE-INSPECTION FEE

As of March 31, 2006, no certificate of compliance can be issued unless CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS are installed in accordance with 527 CMR 31.00
Combination alarms must have both a tone and simulated voice alarm to distinguish the type of emergency.
Homes built before 2008: Battery powered, plug-in with battery backup, or hardwired backup.
Homes built after January 1, 2008: Must be hardwired and interconnected with battery backup.
 See separate regulations concerning CO detectors.

This information sheet is provided as a convenience to the public. The Ashland Fire Department uses its best effort to update this document, however for full text of the official code please consult 527 CMR (Board of Fire Prevention Regulations) and 780 CMR (Massachusetts State Building Code.)

