



Building and Safety Division

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SMOKE DETECTORS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Information Bulletin:

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Smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide alarm retrofit and verification for Residential construction projects effective January 1, 2011:

Please be advised that the 2013 California Building Code (CBC) and the 2013 California Residential Code (CRC), effective on January 1, 2014, require smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in prescribed locations as part of a permitted residential construction project valued at \$1,000 or more.

Smoke detectors are required to be mounted on the ceiling or wall and located as specified below. If retrofitted, alarms must be hard wired, and interconnected with battery backup. Alarms may be solely battery operated where the repairs or alterations do not result in removing wall and ceiling finishes or there is no access to the attic, basement or crawl space. **CBC 907** and **CRC R314**

- In each room used for sleeping purposes AND Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms
- In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements, but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics
- In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level

Carbon monoxide alarms are required to be mounted on the wall or ceiling or other location as specified in the manufacturer's installation instruction and located as specified below. If retrofitted, alarms must be hard wired, and interconnected with battery backup. Alarms may be solely battery operated where the repairs or alterations do not result in removing wall and ceiling finishes or there is no access to the attic, basement or crawl space. **CBC 420.4** and **CRC R315**.

- Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms
- On every level of the dwelling unit
- For R-1 Occupancies only - on the ceiling of sleeping units with permanently installed fuel burning appliances

Inspection Verification of existing or retrofitted smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms is required and will be verified during the inspection process, prior to final inspection approval.