Guidelines for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms - Residential Dwelling Units - 13+

**Buildings with 13 or more dwelling units MUST have a Fire Alarm Pannel that is Monitored by a Fire Alarm Company**

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<td><strong>All Smoke Alarms Shall Be Ceiling Mounted</strong></td>
<td>Hardwired, interconnected w/ battery backup</td>
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**Smoke Alarm Placement**

- On the same level, if a required detector is located more than 20 ft. from a kitchen or full bathroom doorway it shall be: **
  - Photoelectric Only

- On the same level, if a required detector is located within 20 ft. of a kitchen or full bathroom doorway it shall be: **
  - Photoelectric Only

**Type of Smoke Alarm Technology**

- On every habitable level & including the basement level, on the ceiling: at the base of each stairway leading to an occupied floor above.
  - Smoke
  - Smoke
  - Smoke
  - Smoke
  - Smoke
  - Smoke

- On the ceiling outside EACH sleeping area (in hallway, not more than 10 ft. from each bedroom door)
  - Smoke
  - Smoke
  - Smoke
  - Smoke
  - Smoke & CO Combo

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Power Supply & Placement**

- Battery or Plug-In w/ Battery Backup
  - Allowed
  - Allowed
  - Allowed
  - Not Allowed
  - Not Allowed

- Hardwired, Interconnected w/ Battery Backup
  - Allowed
  - Allowed
  - Allowed
  - Required
  - Required

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**Alarm Placement:** A CO alarm shall be located on each habitable level, including finished/habitable portions of basements and attics. A CO alarm shall be placed in the hallway OUTSIDE each separate sleeping area (where bedrooms are located), no farther than 10 ft. from ANY bedroom door.

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**EFFECTIVE 1/1/2015 SMOKE DETECTORS OLDER THAN 10 YEARS MUST BE REPLACED WITH NEW ALARMS** *←*

* Upon replacement of expired (≥ 10 years old) detectors, all new detectors must meet current code requirement regardless of the year built

** FFD recommends Photoelectric (Smoke) and CO Combo Detectors throughout all heated spaces for maximum efficiency

*** Interconnected within each individual dwelling unit

• One Smoke Alarm is needed for each 1,200 square feet of area, per floor

• Combination Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms MUST have a Tone and Voice (“Annunciation”) Feature

• Any building required to be equip with a sprinkler system MUST have a Fire Alarm Pannel that is supervised by a Fire Alarm Company

This document is a guideline. If you have any questions please contact the Fitchburg Fire Prevention Bureau at (978) 345-9672.