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| **Coventry Fire District**  **Anthony Fire Station**  **Incorporated 1889** |



**Fire Marshal’s Office**

**571 Washington Street**

**Coventry, RI 02816**

**401-821-3141**

**Guidelines for Smoke & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms**

**Dates of Construction Permits dictate the type and location of Smoke/CO Alarms**

**Homes built in or prior to 1976**

o Smoke/CO alarms can be of the combination type (Smoke/CO in one alarm) or two separate

units

o They are permitted to be ***battery operated***

o They are ***not required*** to be ***interconnected*** (when one goes off, they all go off)

o Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should be installed on ***every level*** of the home

**Homes built after January 1, 1977 through December 31, 2001**

o Smoke/CO alarms can be of the combination type (Smoke/CO in one alarm) or two separate

units

o The smoke alarms are required to be ***hard-wired with battery backup***

o They ***are required*** to be ***interconnected*** (when one goes off, they all go off)

o The *CO alarms* are allowed to be ***battery operated,*** if you do not use the combination type

o Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should be installed on ***every level*** of the home

**Homes built after January 1, 2002 through February 19, 2004**

o Smoke/CO alarms can be the combination type (Smoke/CO in one alarm)

o The Smoke/CO alarms are required to be ***hard-wired with battery backup***.

o They ***are required*** to be ***interconnected*** (when one goes off, they all go off)

o Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should be installed on ***every level*** of the home

**Homes built after February 20, 2004 through Present**

o Smoke alarms are required to be installed ***inside every bedroom***

o The smoke alarms are required to be ***hard-wired with battery backup***

o They ***are required*** to be ***interconnected* (**when one goes off, they all go off)

o Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should still be installed on ***every level*** of the home

o The Smoke/CO alarms are required to be ***hard-wired with battery backup***

**Guidelines for Installation of Smoke & CarbonMonoxide (CO) Alarms**

 **First, determine if the existing Smoke alarms are battery-operated, hardwired or low voltage**

o If they are hardwired they must be maintained.

o You shall not substitute a battery operated Smoke alarm for a hardwired unit.

 **Second, determine if the existing Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old**

o Do this by taking the Smoke alarm down and looking for a manufacturers date on the

back or inside the device.

o If only a serial number is given, usually either the first two or last two numbers are the

date of manufacture. They are likely too old.

 **There shall be a Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarm on each level of the house**

 **If there are bedrooms on a level, there should be a smoke and carbon monoxide alarm within**

**ten feet (10’) of each bedroom**

o If the bedrooms are farther than ten feet (10’) apart, install a second smoke alarm.

o Smoke alarms may be a Smoke/Carbon Combination alarm or two separate units.

 Most stand alone carbon monoxide alarms are designed to be mounted on the

wall *(follow the manufacturer’s directions)*

 **Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall not be of the plug-in type**.

 **If there are no bedrooms on a level, the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarm should be placed**

**near the stairs to the next level**

 **In the basement the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms should be within three feet (3’) of**

**the bottom of the stairs *(change effective in 2004)***

o If there is a bedroom in the basement more than ten feet (10’) from the bottom of the

stairs, a second smoke alarm should be installed outside the bedroom and the carbon

monoxide can be moved to within ten feet (10’) of the bedroom.

 *(Ex. Smoke alarm only at the bottom of the stairs, Smoke/Carbon combo outside*

*the bedroom)*

 **Alarms should not be within ten feet (10’) of any cooking appliance**

o If a bedroom opens directly into a kitchen, the Smoke alarm shall be placed inside the

bedroom on the ceiling, within the door swing.

 **Preferably Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling, however they may be installed on**

**the wall *(follow the manufacturer’s directions)***

 **Payment for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Certifications is $30.00 made payable to**

**Coventry Fire District.**

o Accepted are Bank Checks, Money Orders or a check with a business name on it.

o Cash will **not** be accepted by the Inspectors.

o It is best to seek an appointment as soon as possible, with a minimum of a two week

notice. This allows time to reschedule or fix any problems that need correction after an

inspection.

 **Failed inspections or no shows without prior cancellation will result in an additional charge of**

**$60.00 for each subsequent inspection as outlined in Rhode Island General Law**