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## CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

This handout is intended only as a guide and is based in part on the 2020 Minnesota State Building Code, the 2020 Minnesota State Fire code and the City of Owatonna ordinances, and good building practice. While every attempt has been made to ensure the correctness of this handout, no guarantees are made to its accuracy or completeness. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the owner or contractor. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the applicable codes or contact your local Building Department.

### **New Construction** [R315.1](#)

In newly constructed dwellings, where fuel-fired appliances or an attached garage is provided, carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed outside of and not more than 10 feet (3048 mm) from each separate sleeping area or bedroom. Alarms shall be installed on each level containing sleeping areas or bedrooms. Where a fuel-burning *appliance* is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed within the bedroom. [R315.3](#)

### **Remodeled or Altered Dwellings and Additions** [R315.2.2](#)

An individual *dwelling unit* shall be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms located as required for new *dwellings* where:

1. Alterations, repairs (including installation or replacement of windows or doors), or additions requiring a building permit occur; or
2. One or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of *dwellings*, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, the addition of an open porch or deck, or chimney repairs.
2. Installation, alteration, or repairs of plumbing, electrical, or mechanical systems.

### **Location:** [R315.7.2](#)

Carbon monoxide detectors shall be installed in the locations specified in Section R315.3. These locations supersede the locations specified in NFPA 720.

**Combination carbon monoxide and smoke alarms** shall be permitted to be used in lieu of carbon monoxide alarms. [R315.4](#)

### **Interconnectivity:** [R315.5](#)

Where more than one carbon monoxide alarm is required to be installed within an individual *dwelling unit* in accordance with Section R315.3, the alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual *dwelling unit*. Physical interconnection of carbon monoxide alarms shall not be required where *listed* wireless alarms are installed and all alarms sound upon activation of one alarm.

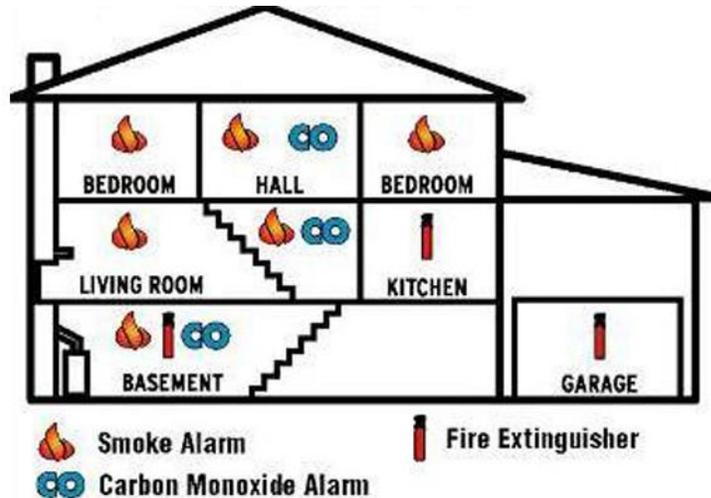
**Exception:** Interconnection of carbon monoxide alarms in existing areas shall not be required where *alterations* or *repairs* do not result in removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure.

## Power source [R315.6](#)

Carbon monoxide alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring where such wiring is served from a commercial source and, where primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection.

### Exceptions:

1. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated where installed in buildings without commercial power.
2. Carbon monoxide alarms installed in existing areas shall be permitted to be battery powered provided any alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure.



## Good Building Practices:

### Protect yourself and your family.

Install carbon monoxide alarms- it's the law. Minnesota State Building Code requires that every home with fuel burning appliances have working carbon monoxide alarms.

### Carbon Monoxide alarms save lives

Carbon Monoxide is an odorless gas. Often, victims are unaware of this hazard. A working carbon monoxide alarm will detect carbon monoxide gas, sound an alarm to alert you, giving you precious time to escape.

### One carbon monoxide is not enough

Install carbon monoxide alarms within 10 feet of every sleeping room or within sleeping rooms where fuel burning appliances are located.

### Test your carbon monoxide regularly.

Every month, test your carbon monoxide alarms using the alarm test button. Install a new battery of the proper type at least once a year. If the low battery warning beeps, replace the battery immediately. We change our clocks each spring and fall so this is a good time to change your smoke alarm batteries too.

### Plan your escape.

Make sure that everyone knows the sound of the carbon monoxide alarm and what to do if the alarm activates. Regularly practice your home escape plan. Know two ways out of every room and have a pre-arranged meeting place outside. Once out, stay out and call the fire department from a neighbor's home.