

SMOKE DETECTOR REQUIREMENTS

NJ State law requires smoke detectors in all 1 & 2 family dwellings when a change of owner/occupant occurs. Before a unit is sold, rented or otherwise subject to a change in occupancy for residential purposes, the owner shall obtain a Certificate of Smoke Detector Compliance. Applications may be obtained from the Tinton Falls Fire Prevention Bureau.

Smoke Detectors are required to be located on every level of a residence; basement, first floor (excluding crawl spaces and unfinished attic areas) and within 10 ft of every sleeping area. In homes with only one sleeping area on one floor, a detector is to be placed in the hallway outside of the bedroom(s). In multi-level homes, detectors should be located outside of sleeping areas and at every level of the home. Basement level detectors should be located at the bottom of the basement stairway.

Two-thirds of all fire deaths occur in households that have no working smoke detectors. Many of these deaths are a result of batteries being removed from the smoke detectors because of "nuisance" alarms caused by cooking or low batteries. Disabling your smoke detector will leave your household without the life-saving early warning that smoke detectors provide. The following recommendations can minimize the occurrence of "nuisance" alarms:

- ◆ DO NOT LOCATE detectors in the kitchen areas. Smoke from cooking may cause nuisance alarms. Use of exhaust fans while cooking can prevent cooking vapors from setting off the alarm. Bathroom areas should also be avoided since steam from showers may cause activation.
- ◆ OTHER AREAS TO AVOID are near forced air ducts used for heating or air conditioning. The air movement may prevent smoke from reaching the detector. "Dead Air" space where the ceiling meets the wall and peaks of an "A" frame type of ceiling should also be avoided.
- ◆ IF YOUR DETECTOR ANNOYS YOU by "chirping" or "beeping", the batteries may need to be replaced.
- ◆ NEWER RESIDENTIAL UNITS have hard wired, interconnected detectors or just hard wired detectors. These detectors cannot be replaced with battery. All interconnected detectors must activate simultaneously.

If the alarm on your smoke detector ever sounds when it shouldn't, don't risk your family's safety by disarming it. The measures listed above should be sufficient to maintain safety without experiencing annoying nuisance alarms.

If you have any questions or problems, please call Fire Marshal Cary Costa at (732) 542-3400 ext 236 or 238.

Tinton Falls Fire Prevention Bureau
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