CITY OF CONCORD
NEW HAMPSHIRE
Community Development Department
Code Administration Division
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Smoke Alarms

Smoke Alarms: The minimum standard pursuant to the City Housing Code, Article 27 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances and a July 1, 1999 amendment to the State of NH Smoke Detector Law Rules (RSA 153:`0-a) requires that existing battery powered smoke detectors located within multi-family (two or more dwelling units) housing, must be replaced with hard wired, electrically powered battery back-up smoke detectors, which incorporate a "false alarm silencing" feature. The electrically powered smoke detector(s) must be installed by a New Hampshire licensed Master Electrician. An Electrical Permit must be obtained prior to installation. This code standard applies to the installation of smoke detection where none were previously provided but are required.

Existing Buildings: When retrofitting an existing building, at a minimum, detection must be provided in the basement and on every floor level of common halls and stairwells.

Common or Public Areas: Pursuant to NFPA 70 (NEC), Section 210.25, a branch circuit is required for the purpose of lighting, central alarm, signal, communications, or other needs for public or common areas of a two-family dwelling, or a multi-occupancy building. Such circuitry shall not be supplied from individual dwelling unit or tenant space electrical services.

Placement of Smoke Detectors: In existing buildings and when retrofitting, detectors shall be located in the vicinity of sleeping rooms and must be audible in all areas of the dwelling unit. In the case of a compartmentalized basement, each compartmentalized section must be provided with a separate smoke detector. To comply with audibility requirements, basement smoke detection must be interconnected to a detector within the dwelling unit served.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

A carbon monoxide detector (CMD) must be installed in every rental unit.

Rental Unit: Every rental unit as defined in Chapter 2, General Definitions in this code, shall be equipped with at least one automatic carbon monoxide detection device. Detection shall be provided on every floor level, in each stairway and in each hallway which is adjacent to a sleeping area. The provisions of this paragraph shall be in addition to any requirements under Section 705.1.

Power Source in Existing Buildings

1. Plug in type, single station units powered by the buildings AC current with a battery as a secondary power source, or;

2. Single station hardwired units with a battery as a secondary power source, or;

3. Hardwired combination smoke/CMD unit with a battery as a secondary power source.