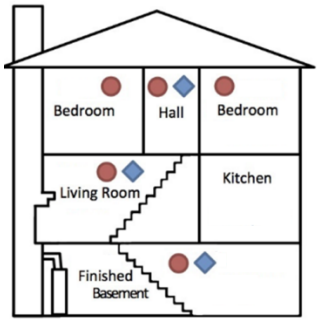
Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms Save Lives

Smoke Alarms

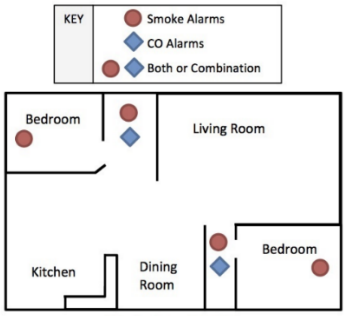
Approximately two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Since most fatal fires occur at night, it's essential that every home has working smoke alarms to provide an early warning. Working smoke alarms increase the chance of surviving a home fire by 50 percent.

Placement

Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. On levels without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room or near the stairway to the upper level, or in both locations. Smoke alarms should be mounted on the ceiling at least 4" from the wall; wall mounted smoke alarms should be placed 4"-12" from the ceiling. Smoke alarms installed in the basement should be installed on the ceiling at the bottom of the stairs leading to the next level. Smoke alarms shall be installed at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance to minimize false alarms when cooking and 3 feet from bathroom doors. Do not install near draft areas (windows, vents, or fans).



Multi Story Residence



Single Story Residence

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. If home fuel-burning appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances.

Combination Alarms

For years smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were separate units. More recently, alarms are being manufactured that detect both smoke and carbon monoxide. These are called "combination alarms" and meet the requirements of the California and San Francisco Fire Codes.

It's the Law!

The San Francisco Fire Code and the Housing Code require that smoke alarms be installed and maintained in all dwelling units by the property owners. The landlord must promptly repair or replace inoperable smoke alarms upon request. As of July 2014, new smoke alarms that are solely battery powered must have a non-replaceable, non-removable battery that is capable of powering the smoke alarm for at least 10 years.

Battery Replacement

Smoke and combination alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire alarm right away. For alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Maintenance

Test your smoke and CO alarms. A suggested frequency is every month by simply holding down the test button. Vacuum your alarm at least once a year. Dust and cobwebs can impair sensitivity. Never paint over a smoke/CO alarm. Alarms should be replaced every 10 years or per manufacturer's instructions.

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According to the American Medical Association, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that carbon monoxide kills approximately 500 people each year and injures another 20,000 people nationwide.

On May 7, 2010, the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act (SB-183) of 2010 was signed into legislation. This act was created due to the alarming statistics related to carbon monoxide poisonings. The need for a carbon monoxide detector in your home is great because a person cannot see or smell carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide devices provide a vital, highly effective, and low-cost protection against carbon monoxide poisoning. Protect your family and install California approved carbon monoxide device in your home today. Do not delay this life saving measure.

Where required

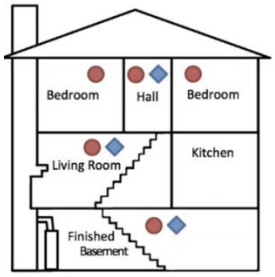
Carbon monoxide detection shall be provided in **dwelling units, sleeping units, and classrooms**:

1) that contain fuel-burning appliances and fuel-burning fireplaces
2) served by a fuel-burning, forced air furnace
3) located in buildings that contain fuel-burning appliances or fuel-burning fireplaces
4) in buildings with an attached private garage
    a) **Exceptions**: See San Francisco Fire Code, Section 915 for all exceptions

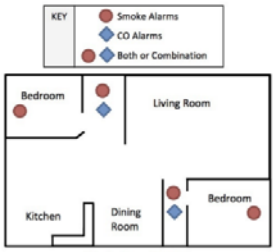
Placement

Install carbon monoxide alarms at the following locations:

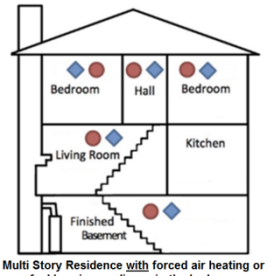
1) Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom
2) On every occupiable level of a dwelling unit, including basements
3) Where a fuel-burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, CO detection shall be installed within the bedroom.
4) Inside sleeping units with fuel burning appliances within the sleeping unit or its attached bathroom, or inside a sleeping unit served by a forced air furnace.
5) Mounting location for each carbon monoxide alarm shall be per the manufacturer's instructions.
    a) **Exceptions**: See San Francisco Fire Code, Section 915 for all exceptions



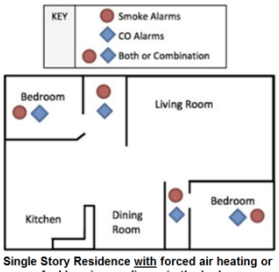
Multi Story Residence



Single Story Residence



Multi Story Residence with forced air heating or a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom



Single Story Residence with forced air heating or a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom

It's the Law!

As of July 2013 the San Francisco Fire Code and the Housing Code require that carbon monoxide alarms be installed and maintained in all dwelling units by the property owners. The landlord must promptly repair or replace inoperable carbon monoxide alarms upon request. All carbon monoxide alarms shall be approved for use by the California State Fire Marshal and shall be replaced per the manufacturer's requirements. http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/bml/List_CSFM_Approved.pdf