

# MANCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

## *Eighth Utilities District*

### FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Connecticut State Fire Safety Code requires approved single-station smoke alarms be installed outside every sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms and on all levels of the dwelling unit, including basements.

Smoke alarm installation is based on the Connecticut State fire Safety Code, NFPA 72 (National Fire Protection Association National Fire Alarm Code), and the Alarm manufacturers installation instructions.

The following is a simplified list of the requirements of the Fire Code for existing Apartment buildings:

- Smoke alarms older than 10 years old shall be replaced. If no date is found on the alarm it is older than 10 years old.
- In existing construction smoke alarms in bedrooms can't be enforced by the Fire Safety Code, they are strongly recommended to be installed in each bedroom.
- In existing buildings there are no requirements for Carbon Monoxide detectors. However, our office strongly recommends installing one on each level or buying combination CO & Smoke alarms.
- Smoke alarms installed within a 20 foot horizontal path of a cooking appliance shall be equipped with a silencing feature or be of the photoelectric type.
- Smoke alarms shall not be installed within a 36 inch horizontal path from a door to a bathroom containing a shower or tub (steam will set off alarms).
- Avoid installing alarms within 36 inches of a heat register or ceiling fan (Dust will set off alarms).
- Alarms use to be mounted at the top of the basement stairs. It is now required to be installed on the basement ceiling.
- Smoke alarms shall not be installed on a wall within four inches of the ceiling or more than twelve inches down from the ceiling.
- We recommend installing alarms on the ceiling; alarms shall be mounted four inches away from the wall. (Corners of walls and ceilings create dead air space and may not activate alarm).
- There are two types of smoke alarm technologies, Ionization and photoelectric. Each one reacts differently to a certain type of fire (rapid vs. slow). It is impossible to plan for which type of fire you might have. It is recommended to have one of each type in your unit.

Additional information can be found in the manufacturer's instructions supplied with the alarm or following the following links:

National Fire Protection Association: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

Federal Emergency Management Association: [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

New construction and significant renovations have a different set of requirements. Please contact our office when doing any new work that requires smoke alarms.