

**Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
State Fire Marshal Division**

**Smoke Alarm Information  
2/08**

Current Fire Code language dictates that “smoke detectors” now be called “smoke alarms” to denote their true function.

Minnesota Statute 299F.362 Requirements:

- Every dwelling and dwelling unit must be provided with a smoke detector that meets the requirements of the Minnesota State Fire Code. This includes single family homes, townhouses, apartment, hotels (containing six or more guest rooms), lodging houses (containing five or less guest rooms), and similar occupancies.
- Smoke detectors must be mounted in accordance with the requirements of the Minnesota State Fire Code.
- When activated, the smoke detector must sound an alarm in the dwelling unit.
- In new construction, smoke detectors must be directly connected to the dwelling’s central power source.
- The owner of the occupancy is responsible for the maintenance of the smoke detector.
- Occupants are required to inform the owner of a nonfunctioning smoke detector within 24 hours of discovering that the detector is not functioning.
- It is a misdemeanor for an occupant to willfully disable a smoke detector, or cause it to be nonfunctioning, if such an action results in damage or injury to persons or property.
- Local governments may establish ordinances for the installation of smoke detectors in single family homes that are more restrictive than the requirements of statute. Local smoke detector ordinances may be enforced through a truth-in-lending housing inspection.

The Minnesota State Fire Code Requirements:

- Smoke alarms installed prior to March 31, 2003. Smoke alarms must be installed in hallways or areas which provide access to each separate sleeping area.
- Smoke alarms installed on or after March 31, 2003. A smoke alarms must be installed in each sleeping room in addition to a point centrally located in the corridor or area providing access to each separate sleeping area. Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed in a single family home, the smoke alarms must be interconnected so that the activation of one alarm will activate all the alarms in the home.
- For all smoke alarms installed prior to July 10, 2007. If any residential structure had code compliant smoke alarms installed prior to the current fire code adoption, then those smoke alarms are still permitted.
- For all smoke alarms installed on or after July 10, 2007. Any residential structure installing smoke alarms after this date must install the smoke alarms in all sleeping rooms, in all hallways leading to the exit and on each floor.
- In homes constructed prior to August 1, 1989. Smoke alarms may be battery powered only.
- In homes constructed on or after August 1, 1989. Smoke alarms must receive their power from the home’s permanent primary wiring without a disconnecting switch and be equipped with a battery backup.
- Smoke detector location and spacing must follow manufacturer’s instructions.