

# Carbon Monoxide

*"The Invisible Killer"*

A Home Safety Update

March 2006

## CO Detectors Now Required In Most Residences



### Nicole's Law

**Why:** Nicole Garofalo was overcome by the deadly gas after drifting snow clogged the venting system on her family's gas heater. CDC reports 480 deaths annually from CO Poisoning.

**Who:** . . . every dwelling, building, or structure . . . , occupied in whole or in part for residential purposes that contains fossil-fuel burning equipment, and/or enclosed parking within the structure. (527 CMR 31.01)



**What:** Shall be equipped, by the owner, landlord or superintendent, with working and listed Carbon Monoxide Alarm Protection. (527 CMR 31.04)

Carbon Monoxide Alarm Protection: shall mean carbon monoxide alarm protection that may consist of either: (1) battery powered, or (2) ac (alternating current) plug-in with battery back up, or (3) an ac primary power source with battery back up, or (4) a low voltage or wireless

systems, or (5) a Combination Appliance. (527 CMR 31.02)

**Where:** . . . each level of each dwelling unit, . . . installed in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping area, not to exceed 10 feet from bedroom door. (527 CMR 31.04 a. & b.)

**When:** Effective March 31, 2006 every Residential Structure that presently or in the future contains Fossil Fuel Burning Equipment or has enclosed parking shall be equipped. (527 CMR 31.04)

**Exceptions:** . . . local housing authority are exempt from the requirements of 527 CMR 31.04 until January 1, 2007., . . . as an adjunct to a low voltage alarm system that retransmits the signal.

**Inspections:** 1. . . . head of the fire department or designee shall enforce the provisions of 527 CMR 31.00, . . . upon sale or transfer of such dwelling, building or structure, 2. Every owner, superintendent, or landlord shall, at a

minimum, maintain, test, repair, or replace, if necessary, every carbon monoxide alarm upon renewal of any lease term for any dwelling unit. (527 CMR 31.05)

### So What Does All This Mean?

Every home with heat from combustion or an attached garage should have CO detectors. A minimum of one detector on each level. There should be a detector within 10 feet of every bedroom door. They should be mounted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Enforcement is when your home is inspected or sold. Even though an inspection is not required, the law requires the homeowner or landlord to comply.

Battery powered, plug in with battery backup, and wired in with battery backup are required.

Visit these web sites for more info:

[www.firstalert.com](http://www.firstalert.com)

[www.kidde.com](http://www.kidde.com)

[www.cpssc.gov](http://www.cpssc.gov)