

CHATHAM FIRE ~ RESCUE

135 DEPOT ROAD, CHATHAM MA 02633



S M O K E D E T E C T O R S I N S I N G L E F A M I L Y H O M E S

DETECTING SMOKE

Smoke detectors are installed to comply with the MA Building and Fire Codes. They are required by MA General Laws and a Town of Chatham By-law.

NFPA Standard 72 (National Alarm Code) is referenced by the MA codes as a guide to the design, installation and maintenance of fire alarms. Properly designed and maintained warning systems should provide sufficient notice to escape before conditions become untenable from fire.

Required Locations for smoke detectors:

1. **In each bedroom** (sleeping room). Within 6' of the entry/egress door.
2. **Outside each separate bedroom** (sleeping room) in the immediate vicinity (within 20') of every bedroom door (sleeping room).
3. Near the **base of all stairs** (within 4') where such stairs lead to another occupied floor.
4. On **each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and cellars** but not including crawl spaces and unoccupied attics.
5. **For each 1,200 square feet** of area or part thereof.

Any smoke detector located within 20 feet of a kitchen or a bathroom (containing a tub or shower) shall be a photoelectric type smoke detector.

Photoelectric type smoke detectors have generally proved to sound an alert sooner in smoldering type fires. Ionization type detectors generally sound sooner to fast flaming fires.

Dual sensor (photoelectric/ionization) detectors are permitted for those areas greater than 20' from a kitchen or bath.

Combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors must: 1. be photoelectric type smoke detector, 2. have battery backup if wired, have a tone and voice distinction between smoke and CO alarm.

All ceiling mounted smoke detectors must be not nearer than 4" from a side wall, at least 36" from an HVAC supply or return and not nearer than 36" from the tip of a ceiling fan blade.

For peaked ceilings the detector must be not nearer than 4" nor greater than 36" from the peak.

All wall mounted smoke detectors shall be not nearer than 4" from the ceiling nor greater than 12" from the ceiling.

NFPA 72 2007 - 10.4.7 Replacement of Smoke Alarms in One- and Two-Family Dwellings. Unless otherwise recommended by the manufacturer's published instructions, single- and multiple-station smoke alarms installed in one- and two-family dwellings shall be replaced when they fail to respond to operability tests, but **shall not remain in service longer than 10 years from the date of manufacture.** (highlight added)

DETECTORS GREATER THAN 10 YEARS OLD OR OF AN IMPROPER TYPE WILL NOT BE APPROVED.

For questions or comments relating to this information call
508-945-2324 or email: fireinspector@chatham-ma.gov