



SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

*A Building permit is required for any alteration or addition to any existing building or structure. *MN State Building Code Section 1300.0120 Subpart 1.*

SECTION MN RC R314 SMOKE ALARMS

R314.1 Smoke detection and notification. All smoke alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 217 and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and the household fire warning *equipment* provisions of NFPA 72.

R314.2 Smoke detection systems. Household fire alarm systems installed in accordance with NFPA 72 that include smoke alarms, or a combination of smoke detector and audible notification device installed as required by this section for smoke alarms, shall be permitted. The household fire alarm system shall provide the same level of smoke detection and alarm as required by this section for smoke alarms. Where a household fire warning system is installed using a combination of smoke detector and audible notification device(s), it shall become a permanent fixture of the occupancy and owned by the homeowner. The system shall be monitored by an *approved* supervising station and be maintained in accordance with NFPA 72.

Exception: Where smoke alarms are provided meeting the requirements of Section R314.4.

R314.3 Location. Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In each sleeping room.
2. Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
3. On each additional *story* of the *dwelling*, including *basements* and habitable *attics* but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable *attics*. In *dwellings* or *dwelling units* with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full *story* below the upper level.

R314.3.1 Alterations, repairs and additions. An individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings when:

1. Alterations, repairs (including installation or replacement of windows or doors), or additions requiring a permit occur; or
2. Installation, alteration, or repairs of plumbing, electrical, or mechanical systems.

Exceptions:

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition of an open porch or deck, or chimney repairs.
2. Installation, alteration, or repairs of plumbing, electrical, or mechanical systems.

R314.4 Power source. Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring provided that such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection.

Exceptions:

1. Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in buildings that are not served from a commercial power source.
2. Hard wiring of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required where the alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for hard wiring without the removal of interior finishes.

R314.5 Interconnection. Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling or sleeping unit, the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.

Exceptions:

1. Interconnection is not required in buildings that are not undergoing alterations, repairs or construction of any kind.
2. Smoke alarms in existing areas are not required to be interconnected where alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.

SECTION MN RC R315 CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

R315.1 Carbon monoxide alarms. For new construction, every one-family dwelling unit, two family dwelling unit, and each townhouse dwelling unit shall have an approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm installed when one of the following conditions occur:

1. Fuel-fired appliances are installed; or
2. Have attached garages.

R315.1.1 Installation. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed outside and not more than 10 feet from each separate sleeping area or bedroom. Alarms shall be installed on each level containing sleeping areas or bedrooms.

R315.2 Carbon monoxide detection systems. Carbon monoxide detection systems that include carbon monoxide detectors and audible notification appliances, installed and maintained in accordance with this section for carbon monoxide alarms and NFPA 720, shall be permitted. The carbon monoxide detectors shall be listed as complying with UL 2075. Where a household carbon monoxide detection system is installed, it shall become a permanent fixture of the occupancy, owned by the homeowner and shall be monitored by an approved supervising station.

Exception:

Where carbon monoxide alarms are installed meeting requirements of section R315.1, compliance with section 315.2 is not required.

R315.3 Where required in existing dwellings. Where a permit is required for alterations, repairs or additions existing dwellings that have attached garages or fuel-burning appliances shall be provided with a carbon monoxide alarm in accordance with Section R315.1.

R315.4 Alarm requirements. Single-station carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with the requirements of UL 2034 and shall be installed in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

ELECTRICAL: Applicant must contact Aaron Goslee, MN State Electrical Inspector, at 507-440-1433 for electrical permits and inspections.

The language & depictions in this hand out is meant as a guide for the construction code & building process and may not contain exact code language. For exact code you may go online at www.revisor.mn.gov or contact the Austin Building Department.