



# Residential Smoke Alarms

## Bulletin 35

*Division of Building Safety and Inspection for 2018 International Codes*

This bulletin is designed to provide guidance for the installation of Smoke Detector Alarms in new and existing dwellings.

### **When Required:**

- All new construction of dwellings.
- Alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit *and* on the interior of the building.
- Addition of new bedrooms, inside of or in addition to a dwelling's original footprint.

### Exempt - The following does not trigger Smoke Detector installation.

- Exterior work such as decks, re-roofing and re-siding.
- Replacement of windows and doors (same for same).
- Electrical, plumbing or mechanical work.

### **Locations**

- In each sleeping room.
- Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.  
**Note:** This is also the location of required Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms. Typically, this will be one unit with both smoke and CO detection.
- On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and habitable attics. Crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics do not require smoke alarms.  
**Note:** Open split levels where the floors are less than one full story apart, only one alarm is required.
- Not less than 3 feet horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom with a bathtub or shower unless it prevents installation meeting the criteria above.
- In napping areas in a family home child-care.

### **Power Source**

- Hardwired with a battery back-up.
- If commercial power is not available, battery only is acceptable.
- Hardwiring is not required in existing dwellings where installation would result in removal of the wall or ceiling, unless there is an *attic*, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for hard wiring without removing interior finishes.

### **Interconnection**

- Multiple devices installed must be interconnected, so that when one is triggered, all alarms sound.
- If hardwire interconnection is not feasible, listed wireless connectivity is acceptable.

### **Additional Requirements**

- Carbon Monoxide Alarms in new and existing dwelling units are also required. Refer to Pierce County Bulletin 51 and International Residential Code Section R315 for more information.