



# CO Alarm Code Requirement

Effective January 1, 2026

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## **Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Smoke Alarms for All Dwelling Units (R-1, R-2, R-3 & R-4)**

### **Alarms are required to be State Fire Marshal Approved**

For a list of APPROVED smoke and carbon monoxide alarms go to:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-engineering-and-investigations/building-materials-listing>  
and select the appropriate category dropdown

Smoke alarms (smoke detectors) and carbon monoxide alarms save lives. They provide the opportunity for escape by early detection of smoke, fire or carbon monoxide gases.

2025 California Residential Code sections R310.2.1, R310.2.2, R311.2.1, & R311.2.2

2025 California Building Code sections 907.2.11 & 915

2025 California Fire Code sections 1103.8 & 1103.9

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are required in new and existing dwelling units **anytime** a permit is required for alterations, repairs or additions, this includes but is not limited to; **HVAC, water heaters, bath remodels, re-piping projects, reroofs, etc.** Existing dwelling or sleeping units that have attached garages or fuel burning appliances including fireplaces shall be provided with smoke and carbon monoxide detection.

Carbon monoxide alarms and smoke detectors shall be installed in the following locations:

- 1. Outside of each separate dwelling unit sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom(s).**
- 2. On every occupiable level of a dwelling unit, including basements.**
- 3. In each sleeping room and any room designed as a bedroom (smoke detector)**

**Power supply.** The carbon monoxide alarms and smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring and shall be equipped with a battery back-up.

Exception: In existing dwelling units the alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated where repairs or alteration do not result in the removal of wall and ceiling finishes or there is no access by means of attic, basement, or crawl space.

**Interconnection.** Where more than one carbon monoxide alarm or smoke alarm is required to be installed within the dwelling unit or within a sleeping unit in Group R occupancies, the alarms shall be interconnected in a manner that activation of one alarm shall activate all of the alarms in the individual unit.

Exception: Interconnection is not required in existing buildings prior to January 1, 2011, under any of the following conditions: dwelling units where repairs do not result in the removal of wall and ceiling finishes, there is no access by means of attic, basement or crawl space and no previous method for interconnection existed.

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**The Building Inspector will verify the installation of the carbon monoxide alarm(s) and  
smoke detectors during the inspection process.**

**OR**

**Complete and sign under the penalty of perjury the verification form on the reverse side  
of this notice.**

**Build Inside the Triangle™** 

# SMOKE DETECTOR AND / OR CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM RETROFIT VERIFICATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_, and I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Print Property Owner's Name) (Print Tenant's Name - if same as Owner write "Same")

Who own and/or live in the dwelling located at: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

Verify that the **State Fire Marshal approved** smoke detectors and / or carbon monoxide alarms required by the California Residential Code (CRC), California Building Code (CBC) & California Fire Code (CFC) have been installed in the dwelling, in compliance with the code and with the manufacturer's instructions and further that they have been tested and do function properly.

In an effort to enhance life safety within dwellings, CRC sections R310.2.1, R310.2.2, R311.2.1, & R311.2.2, CBC sections 907.2.11 & 915 and CFC sections 1103.8 & 1103.9 require the retrofit of these alarms in existing dwellings when alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit. Generally, the alarms must be hard wired (110 volt) with battery back-up and all alarms are to be interconnected. If the installation of the alarms will require the removal of wall or ceiling finishes or there is no access by means of attic, basement or crawl space, then alarms may be solely battery operated and not interconnected. Alarms must be installed in **all** of the following locations within the existing dwelling:

- Immediately outside of each separate bedroom (hallway). (smoke & carbon monoxide)
- In each story level of the dwelling, including basements and habitable attic rooms. (smoke & carbon monoxide)
- In each sleeping room and any room designed as a bedroom (smoke detector)

***I have read and understand the above requirements and affirm by my signature, that all required alarms mentioned above have been properly installed and tested. (Both signature lines below must be completed).***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Tenant  
(If same as Owner - write "Same")

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## ATTENTION OWNER - OCCUPANT:

***This is a Voluntary Smoke Detector and / or Carbon Monoxide Alarm verification procedure. If you prefer a Building Inspector to perform the verification, you must arrange to have an adult present at the time of inspection.***