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SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

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Effective December 27, 2022, rental housing units with households that receive **federal rental assistance** are required to comply with the 2018 International Fire Code standards for the installation of carbon monoxide alarms or detectors. HUD announced this updated requirement in a public notice.

Carbon Monoxide is a gas that cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted, and can be fatal when breathed. The symptoms that occur with carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to those of the flu and allergies. These similarities often lead to an incorrect diagnosis, such as a migraine headache, stroke, food poisoning, or heart disease.

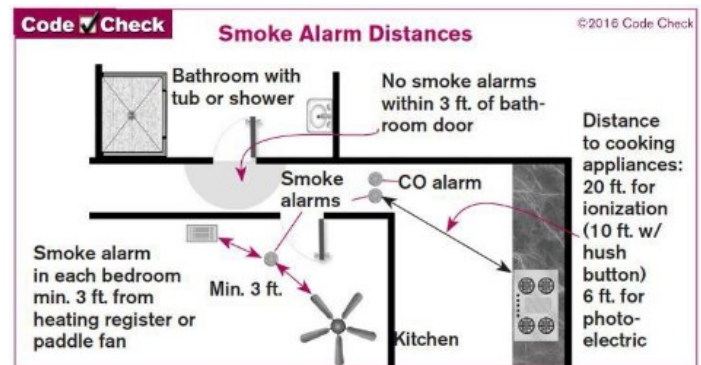
Definitions:

Carbon Monoxide/Smoke Alarm: A single or multiple station alarm intended to detect carbon monoxide gas/smoke and alert occupants by a distinct audible signal. It incorporates a sensor, control components and an alarm notifications appliance in a single unit.

Carbon Monoxide/Smoke Detector: A device with an integral sensor to detect carbon monoxide gas/smoke and transmit an alarm signal to a connected alarm control unit.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- **Smoke alarms** must be located in the same areas that are required for new dwellings – in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area (e.g., hallways), and on each story. [CRC 314.3]. In dwellings with split levels without an intervening door the upper-level alarm shall suffice for the lower level provided the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level. Smoke alarms must be at least 3 feet from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a tub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a required smoke alarm. Distances to cook appliances shall be as in the figure shown.
- **Carbon Monoxide Alarms are required in dwellings equipped with gas appliances or a fireplace or an attached garage.** They must be located outside each sleeping area (e.g., hallways) and on each floor level. If a fuel-burning appliance is installed in a bedroom, a carbon monoxide alarm must also be installed in that bedroom [CRC 315.2.2 & 315.3].



TIPS TO AVOID CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING:

- Make sure fuel-burning appliances are installed by a professional and are working properly.
- Never run your car in a closed garage and move cars out of attached garages immediately after starting them.
- Never use a gas range or oven to heat a home.
- Choose vented appliances (like gas fireplaces) whenever possible.
- Have your heating systems and chimneys inspected and cleaned by a qualified technician every year.
- Replace dirty air filters on heating and cooling systems.
- Never run a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure, even if the doors or windows are open, unless the equipment is professionally installed and vented.
- Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, or camper.
- Make sure there is always good ventilation – install proper ventilation for interior combustion appliances and consider installing air exchangers or air conditioning for “tightly-sealed” homes.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors near sleeping areas.