



# Smoke Alarm Rules and Requirements

## **SMOKE ALARMS**

**Working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are the most important device you can have in your home. They provide essential early warning of a problem so you and your family can safely escape.**

Vermont law has required smoke detectors (alarms) to be installed in single-family dwellings since 1994. Smoke alarms have been required to be installed in multi-family and rental dwellings for more than 30 years. In spite of these requirements, and the general public's awareness about the value of smoke alarms, one common factor in most fatal fires is the lack of properly installed, and working, smoke alarms. Fire is fast. More than one smoke alarm is needed in most dwelling units to make sure that people can hear the alarm and have time to escape. Smoke alarms need to be properly installed, maintained and replaced when needed, and the type of smoke alarm is also important.

## **Owner – Occupied Single Family Free Standing Dwellings**

The requirements for smoke alarms in owner-occupied single family dwelling come out of state law. Vermont's smoke alarm law has required smoke detectors (alarms) to be installed in single-family dwellings since 1994. A working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are the most important device you can have in your home. It provides essential early warning of a problem so you and your family can safely escape.

Fire is fast. Smoke alarms need to be properly installed, maintained and replaced when needed to make sure that people can hear the alarm and have time to escape in an emergency. Vermont law requires the seller of a single-family dwelling, whether the transfer by sale or exchange, to certify to the buyer at the closing of the transaction that the dwelling is provided with one or more photoelectric smoke detectors and one or more carbon monoxide detectors.

**(See Requirements for Photoelectric Alarms)**