



Bradley County Building Inspections

2006 IRC- Smoke Alarm Information

REV. 08232011

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.

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 systems shall provide the same level of smoke detection and alarm as required by this section for smoke alarms in the event the fire alarm panel is removed or the system is not connected to a central station.

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 but not including crawl space 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.

When more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit the alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit.

- In new construction, the required smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring and when primary power is interrupted, receive power from a battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection.
- Smoke alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated when installed in buildings without commercial power or in buildings that undergo alterations, repairs or additions regulated by Section R313.2.1.
- Mount all smoke detectors high on walls or ceilings. Flat ceiling mounted alarms should be installed at least 4 inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to twelve inches away from ceiling.
- If mounted on pitched ceilings, install alarm within twelve inches of the ceilings highest point.
- Detector must be installed at least three feet away from all HVAC air registers and HVAC returns.

NOTE: FOLLOW ALL MANUFACTURES INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDED WITH THE PURCHASE OF ALL SMOKE ALARMS.

Alterations, repairs and additions. When alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings; the smoke alarms shall be interconnected and hard wired.

Exceptions:

1. Interconnection and 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 and interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.
2. Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck, are exempt from the requirements of this section.