

Placement of Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

In a typical home fire, occupants have just minutes to escape. And because smoke in one area may not reach a smoke alarm in another, **the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends placement of at least one smoke alarm on every level of the home (including basements), in every bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.**

The NFPA also recommends interconnection of alarms to provide better whole-home protection than stand-alone alarms. Leading authorities recommend that both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms be installed to help insure maximum detection of the various types of fires that can occur within the home. Ionization sensing alarms may detect invisible fire particles (associated with fast flaming fires) sooner than photoelectric alarms. Photoelectric sensing alarms may detect visible fire particles (associated with slow smoldering fires) sooner than ionization alarms.

The NFPA recommends CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height. Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory such as UL. Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions. If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department. If the CO alarm sounds, immediately go outside and call 911. Make sure everyone inside the home is outside and accounted for. Stay on the property and wait for emergency personnel. If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow. During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up. A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings. Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — please only use outside.

The DOTS represent Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors: RED = Smoke Detectors, Blue = CO Detectors

