

SMOKE ALARMS REQUIRED WHEN REMODELING



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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This handout is intended only as a guide and is based in part on the 2015 Minnesota Residential Code, Big Lake City ordinances, and good building practice. While every attempt has been made to insure the correctness of this handout, no guarantees are made to its accuracy or completeness. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the owner or contractor. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the applicable codes or contact your local Building Department.

The State Building Code requires that smoke alarms be installed in dwellings whenever additions, interior alterations, or interior repairs requiring a building permit occur or when one or more bedrooms are added. Work on the exterior of the dwelling is exempt from this provision. Examples of this work would include roofing, siding, decks, porches, windows, and doors.

Before calling for a final inspection, it is your responsibility to insure that all detectors are properly placed, as they may be checked as a part of that inspection. Permit applicants are responsible for compliance.

Smoke alarms must be installed in each sleeping room, outside of each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, and on each story of the dwelling including basements. When framing is exposed, smoke alarms must be hard wired and have a battery backup. Smoke alarms must be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the dwelling unit. Circuits containing smoke alarms are not permitted to have a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection.

In areas where framing is not exposed, alarms may be solely battery operated.