



LEBANON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Guidelines to the State of New Hampshire Smoke Detector Laws For One and Two Family Homes

Requirements for the proper installation of smoke detectors in one and two family homes are essentially covered by four sets of documents. These are RSA 153:10-a, the State Fire Code, the 2003 NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, and 2002 NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code. These documents are listed in order of precedence, and contain in part the following requirements:

NH RSA 153:10-a

- PART II. Every single-family dwelling which is built or substantially rehabilitated after January 1, 1982, shall be equipped with an automatic fire warning device.
- PART II-a. Every rental unit as defined in RSA 153:1, IX-a shall be equipped with at least one automatic fire warning device. An automatic fire warning device shall be located in each hallway or area which is adjacent to a sleeping area. The provisions of this paragraph shall be in addition to any requirements under paragraph II. The owner of the rental unit shall be responsible for maintaining the automatic fire warning device in a suitable condition.
- PART III. The state fire marshal may adopt such rules pursuant to RSA 541-A as he thinks are necessary to enforce paragraphs I and II. He shall either enforce the provisions of this section or appoint the appropriate municipal authority to enforce the provisions of this section.

New Hampshire State Fire Code

Part Saf-C 6018 AUTOMATIC FIRE WARNING DEVICE

Saf-C 6015.01 Compliance. Owners of structures shall install and maintain automatic fire warning devices as required by RSA 153:10-a and NFPA 1, 2003 edition, adopted under Saf-C 6008.01.

Saf-C 6001.01(d) "Automatic fire warning device" means a single station type detector powered by house electricity and listed by a testing laboratory approved by the State Fire Marshal.

Smoke Detectors Save Lives

NFPA 101 "LIFE SAFETY CODE"- ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS

- 24.3.4 Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems.
Smoke alarms or a smoke detection system shall be provided in accordance with either 24.3.4.1 or 24.3.4.2, as modified by 24.3.4.3.
- 24.3.4.1 Smoke alarms shall be installed in accordance with 9.6.2.10 in the following locations:
- (1) All sleeping rooms in other than existing one- and two-family dwellings
 - (2) Outside of each separate sleeping area, in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping rooms
 - (3) On each level of the dwelling unit, including basements
- 24.3.4.2 Dwelling units protected by an approved smoke detection system in accordance with Section 9.6 and equipped with an approved means of occupant notification.
- 24.3.4.3 In existing one- and two-family dwellings, approved smoke alarms powered by batteries shall be permitted.
- 9.6.2.10 Smoke Alarms.
- 9.6.2.10.2 Smoke alarms, other than battery-operated devices as permitted by other sections of this Code, or battery-operated devices complying with 9.6.1.3 and the low-power wireless system requirements of NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, shall receive their operating power from the building electrical system.
- 9.6.2.10.3* In new construction, where two or more smoke alarms are required within a dwelling unit, suite of rooms, or similar area, they shall be arranged so that operation of any smoke alarm shall cause the alarm in all smoke alarms within the dwelling unit, suite of rooms, or similar area to sound, unless otherwise permitted by the following:
- (1) The requirement of 9.6.2.10.3 shall not apply where permitted by another section of this Code.
 - (2) The requirement of 9.6.2.10.3 shall not apply to configurations that provide equivalent distribution of the alarm signal.

NFPA 72, NATIONAL FIRE ALARM CODE

8-1* Primary Function.

Fire warning equipment for dwelling units shall provide a reliable means to notify the occupants of a dwelling unit of the presence of a threatening fire and the need to escape to a place of safety before such escape might be impeded by untenable conditions in the normal path of egress.

- 8-1.4.5 Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed for new construction, they shall be arranged so that the operation of any smoke alarm causes the alarm in all smoke alarms within the dwelling to sound.