



Carbon Monoxide Alarms

The 2006 legislative session passed a new carbon monoxide (CO) law requiring CO alarms in all single family homes and multifamily apartment units. Effective August 1, 2008, all existing single family homes shall be equipped with approved carbon monoxide alarms. Effective August 1, 2009 all other multi family or apartment dwelling units shall be provided with approved CO alarms. All carbon monoxide alarms must be certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory that conforms to the latest Underwriters Laboratories (U/L) Standards.

Every single family dwelling and every multifamily dwelling unit shall be provided with a minimum of one approved and fully operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within ten (10) feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes. If bedrooms are located on separate floors, additional carbon monoxide alarms would be necessary within ten feet of these areas.

What does this mean for property owners in The City of West St Paul? Voluntary compliance is anticipated. The City will not be entering homes to inspect specifically for CO detectors. If you have additional questions or need further information on the carbon monoxide legislation please contact the State Fire Marshall Division at 651-201-7200, or visit their website at www.fire.state.mn.us. You may also contact The City of West St Paul Building Department at 651-552-4116.

Multifamily Carbon Monoxide Requirements

An owner of a multifamily dwelling that contains minimal or no sources of carbon monoxide may be exempted from the requirements of MN Statute 299F.50, provided that such owner certifies to the commissioner of public safety that such multifamily dwelling poses no foreseeable carbon monoxide risk to the health and safety to the dwelling units.

As an alternative to installing carbon monoxide alarms inside each dwelling unit, multifamily dwellings may have approved and operational carbon monoxide alarms installed between 15 and 25 feet of carbon monoxide producing central fixtures and equipment provided there is a centralized alarm system or other mechanism for responsible parties to hear the alarm at all times.

Carbon monoxide detectors may be connected as a supervisory signal to the building fire alarm system provided the signal transmitted is a distinct carbon monoxide supervisory signal that is sent to a central station alarm monitoring location or to a constantly attended location. It is not appropriate for the signal to transmit to the building management office, a dwelling unit or other location that is not constantly attended. Carbon monoxide alarms shall not be connected to a fire alarm system evacuation signal. Building management can contact a licensed fire alarm contractor or electrician to make these modifications.