

## What to do when the smoke detector sounds

- 1). Know 2 escape routes from each room—make sure all family members know them also.
- 2). If there is smoke, CRAWL—stay low and go! Remember to feel doors before opening them.
- 3). LEAVE THE HOUSE.
- 4). Have all family members meet at the same place—called the Safe Meeting Place.
- 5). Call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or the neighbors.
- 6). DO NOT GO BACK INTO THE HOUSE!

Firefighters would rather respond to a false call, than to an emergency where you were injured because you investigated before calling us.



## Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and What to Do

Symptoms are often mistaken for the flu. Physical ailments such as headache, nausea, feeling tired are common. The symptoms go away when a person goes outside and return when back in the contaminated atmosphere.

As the poisoning progresses, there is a severe headache, confusion, and drowsiness. Infants, young children and pregnant women are affected faster and more lethally.


- 1). If you have the symptoms, call 9-1-1.
- 2). Get out of the house and close the door.
- 3). When we arrive we will transport you to the hospital for a check-up.
- 4). Other firefighters will test the air in your house for C.O. levels.
- 5). If C.O. is found, we will open all the windows.
- 6). We will ask someone to call your service

### East Greenwich Fire District

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## Smoke and C.O. Detector Laws in Rhode Island for Existing 1, 2, 3 Family Houses

Revised on 11/30/2011  
per State Fire Marshal Farrell



East Greenwich  
Fire District

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Fire Marshal**

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## What are the Smoke & C.O. Laws?

On 2/20/2004 these laws changed in Rhode Island. The governing statutes are found in the Rhode Island Fire Safety Code (section 23-28 of the G.L.R.I.). This refers you to the R.I. Uniform Fire Code chap. 20.11 for Residential. You are then directed to the R.I. Life Safety Code, as amended, chapter 24.3 for existing residential homes. The R.I. L.S.C. sends you to NFPA 72 and 720, as amended, for the specific requirements.



### GENERAL

### REQUIREMENTS

Existing houses built from 6/76 to 2/04 **must maintain all installed, hardwired smoke detectors.** Houses built from 1/2002 to 2/20/2004 **must maintain all hardwired carbon monoxide detectors.** You may NOT substitute battery operated for hardwired. You may NOT delete any previously installed detector.

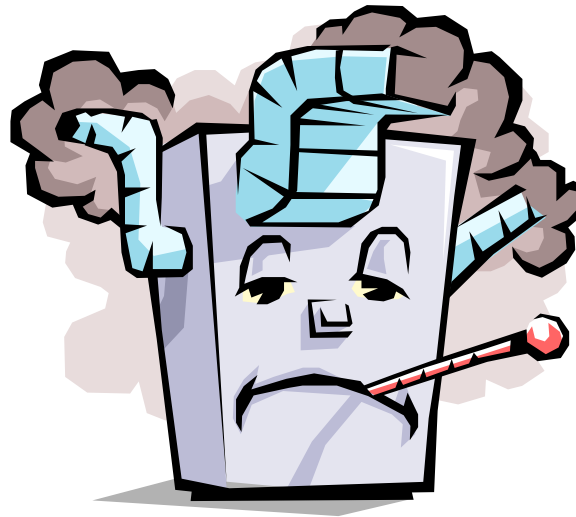
## Carbon Monoxide Detectors

N.F.P.A. 720 requires carbon monoxide detectors to be installed centrally outside sleeping areas in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom. Should bedrooms or sleeping areas be separated, and audibility of the alarm to occupants is impaired, more than one (1) detector may be required. Sound level must be 85 dBa at 10 feet. There must be a visible power ON light. NOTE: Call the local fire marshal if you have a question as to whether an area would qualify as a sleeping area.

Detectors may be battery, combination smoke and CO, hardwired or wireless (different from battery). **PLUG IN DETECTORS ARE ONLY ALLOWED IF THEY CAN BE RESTRAINED.** This is in accordance with R.I. State Law. In houses constructed after 01/01/2002 carbon monoxide detectors must be hardwired. Three-family homes must have hardwired or wireless smoke and C.O. detectors by 7/1/2008.

C.O. detectors are no longer required on each floor unless there is a sleeping area on that floor, or they were previously required and are hardwired into the house electrical system. Houses with electric heat, no fireplace, no garage do not need a CO detector.

Combination C.O. & smoke detectors are allowed.



*Incomplete combustion producing carbon monoxide*

## Smoke Detector Requirements

- 1). One (1) detector per floor, unless special circumstances apply
- 2). Detector outside sleeping area (s)
- 3). Detector near the stairway to the upper level
- 4). Detector at the base of the cellar stairs  
(if ceiling is joisted then on bottom of joist)
- 5). Houses built AFTER 2/20/04 will also have detectors hardwired inside the bedrooms and have heat detectors in the garage.

Detectors may be battery, hardwired or wireless, unless they were previously required to be hardwired. Then they must stay hardwired. Three (3) family homes must be hardwired by 7/1/2008.

Detectors may be mounted either on the ceiling or the wall. **THE FIRE DEPARTMENT STRONGLY RECOMMENDS ON THE CEILING AS SMOKE TRAVELS UP THEN OUT.** The edge of ceiling mounted detectors must be at least 4" from the wall. The top of wall mounted detectors must be between 4" and 12" from the ceiling. All detectors will have a power ON light.

No detector shall be mounted:

- 1). Inside a garage
- 2). 3 feet from a cooking appliance
- 3). 3 feet from a forced air register
- 4). 3 feet from the tip of a ceiling fan
- 5). 3 feet from a shower room door
- 6). Detectors mounted within 20 feet of a cooking appliance will be of photoelectric design.

Household fire alarm systems are allowed as long as they meet the above requirements and, if they perform two (2) functions (burglar & fire), the fire must take precedence. Sound level must be 85 dBa.

**ALL SMOKE DETECTORS  
MUST BE REPLACED EVERY  
10 YEARS!!**