CARBON MONOXIDE AND SMOKE DETECTORS

All single-family dwellings are required to have at least one CO alarm installed.

In addition, according to section 310.9.1 of the California Building Code, all residences must have smoke detectors installed. Section 310.9.1.3 states that all smoke alarms installed in California should appear on the approved list of the State Fire Marshal. In new residences, the smoke alarms must be hardwired into the home's electrical system plus incorporate a battery backup in the event of power failure. Smoke alarms retrofitted into existing residences may be solely battery powered.

Beginning July 1, 2014, California Senate Bill 745 required that all solely battery-operated smoke alarms and combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms sold and installed in California must contain a non-replaceable, non-removable battery that is capable of powering the smoke alarm for a minimum of 10 years.

The number and location of smoke alarms is specified in section 310.9.1.4 of the California Building Code.

- One smoke alarm should be placed on each floor in non-sleeping areas.
- One smoke alarm must be installed in each room where sleeping occurs
- One smoke alarm should be located in each hallway that leads directly to sleeping rooms.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), you should install smoke detectors on every floor of your home, in each bedroom, outside of sleeping areas, and in hallways. The NFPA suggests a maximum distance of 30 feet between each smoke detector.

