



Fire Prevention Division  
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## Multi-Residence Smoke Detector Guidelines

California State Law requires an operating smoke detector on every inhabitable level, including the basement.

Dwelling units, congregate residences, and hotel or lodging house guest rooms [for SFM] and residential care facilities classified as group R, Divisions 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1 and group R Division 6 Occupancies that are used for sleeping purposes shall be provided with smoke alarm or multi-station smoke alarms shall be installed in accordance with this code and the approved manufacturers instructions. **2013 California Building Code**

### You may also be required to install smoke detectors if:

- When the valuation of an addition, alteration or repair to a Group R Occupancy exceeds \$1000.00 and a permit is required, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing Group R Occupancies, smoke alarms shall be installed in accordance with sections 907.2.11.1 and 907.2.11.2.4 of this section (**310.9.1.0 Additions, Alteration or repairs to group R Occupancies**) **2013 California Building Code**

### Required Locations

- Smoke alarm must be installed properly in order to provide early warning of fires:
- In every bedroom.
- In hallways outside of bedrooms.
- At the top of interior stairways.
- On each level if the dwelling has two or more levels (including basement).

### Smoke detectors should not be installed

- Near heaters or heater vents
- In or outside of kitchens (avoid placement within 6 feet of the kitchen)
- Directly outside bathroom doors (avoid placement within 6 feet of bathroom door).

Dust, water vapor (steam), or cooking can cause false alarms. Smoke alarms shall not be located in areas where these materials are produced.

### Mounting Guidelines

- Locate on a smooth flat surface (preferably on a ceiling or on the bottom of a beam).
- Smoke detectors mounted on the ceiling should not be installed closer than 4 inches to an adjoining wall.
- If the smoke detector must be installed on the wall, it shall be mounted within 4 to 12 inches of the ceiling.
- Install per the approved manufacturers instructions.
- In unusual construction situation, consult a contractor.