


Montgomery County Residential Smoke Alarm Requirements

	Homes Prior to 7/75	Homes between 7/75-7/89	Homes between 7/89 - 7/90	Homes between 7/90 - 7/94	Homes after 7/94	7/1/2013 Update: Maryland's Smoke Alarm Law Applicable to battery-operated smoke alarms Phased in implementation by 1/1/2018	After 7/1/2013 New Home Construction
Installation Responsibility	Builder/ Owner	Builder/ Owner	Builder/ Owner	Builder/ Owner	Builder/ Owner	Owner	Builder/ Owner
Type of Alarm	Battery or Hardwired	Hardwired	Hardwired Interconnected	Hardwired Interconnected with battery back-up	Hardwired Interconnected with battery back-up	Battery-operated smoke alarms Does NOT affect hardwired alarms	Hardwired, Interconnected with battery back-up
Location	Outside each sleeping area	Outside each sleeping area	Outside each sleeping area & on every level	Outside each sleeping area & on every level	Inside & outside each sleeping area & on every level	By 1/1/2018 Any battery-operated smoke alarm must be sealed, tamper resistant units incorporating a silence/hush button and using long-life batteries.	For all new residential units constructed after 7/1/2013, at least one smoke alarm must be installed in each sleeping room, in the hallway or common area outside of sleeping rooms, and in the hallway or common area on each level within a residential dwelling unit, including basements and excluding specified unoccupied spaces such as attics.
Maintenance Responsibility	Occupant	Occupant	Occupant	Occupant	Occupant	Occupant	Occupant



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Reminds Residents:

Maintenance

1. Monthly – using the test button, check smoke alarms to ensure they are working as recommended by the manufacturer.
2. Replace smoke alarms that are 10 years old or sound their “end of life” signal. Smoke alarms do not last forever and units that are 10 years old are near the end of their service life and should be replaced. Both hard-wired and battery-operated alarms are equally affected by age. Just like any electrical appliance, the circuitry and components of smoke alarms wear out over time. When a smoke alarm reaches 10 years of use, the potential of failing to detect a fire increases substantially and replacing units after 10 years reduces the likelihood of failure.

Residential Sprinkler Systems

Nothing in the new law is intended to imply that smoke alarms are an adequate substitute for residential sprinkler protection. The combination of properly located and functioning smoke alarms and properly designed residential sprinkler protection systems provide the greatest potential for surviving any residential fire.

For more safety tips, visit us at www.mcfrrs.org/mcsafe