

# Community Development Department

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## Smoke Detectors in New Single Family Dwellings (Section 310.9, 2001 California Building Code)

**Location within dwelling units.** In dwelling units, a detector shall be installed in each sleeping room and at a point centrally located in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area. When the dwelling unit has more than one story and in dwellings with basements, a detector shall be installed on each story and in the basement. In dwelling units where a story or basement is split into two or more levels, the smoke detector shall be installed on the upper level, except that when the lower level contains a sleeping area, a detector shall be installed on each level. When sleeping rooms are on an upper level, the detector shall be placed at the ceiling of the upper level in close proximity to the stairway. In dwelling units where the ceiling height of a room open to the hallway serving the bedrooms exceeds that of the hallway by 24 inches or more, smoke detectors shall be installed in the hallway and in the adjacent room. Detectors shall sound an alarm audible in all sleeping areas of the dwelling unit in which they are located.

### LOCATIONS:

- A. Centrally located in the hallway (*if no hallway, the area adjacent to the bedroom door*) giving access to the bedrooms.
- B. In any room that opens into the hallway that has a ceiling level, at any location, 24 inches higher than the lowest ceiling level of the hallway.
- C. On the ceiling in close proximity to the stairway.
- D. On the lower level ceiling in close proximity to the stairway.
- E. In the sleeping rooms.

One story house . . . . .	A, B, E
Second floor with bedrooms of a two story house . . . . .	A, B, C, E
Second floor without bedroom of a two story house . . . . .	C
First floor with bedrooms of a two story house . . . . .	A, B, E
First floor without bedrooms of a two story house . . . . .	D
Basement with no bedrooms . . . . .	C

**NOTE:** Hallway (*corridor*) - A passageway giving access to rooms. Usually enclosed by walls between 3 feet and 5 feet in width.

**AUDIBILITY:** All detectors must be audible in the bedrooms. Connecting the detectors in series is not required.

**NOTE:** If any area of a bedroom is more than 30 feet from a detector, an additional detector shall be installed in the bedroom.

**POWER SOURCE:** Power is to come from the building wiring and shall be equipped with battery backup. It is not recommended to put the detectors on a dedicated circuit; they should be incorporated into one of the general lighting circuits. Since the detectors are connected in series, they shall be on only one general lighting branch circuit.

All smoke detectors are to be installed in accordance with the approved manufacturer's instructions. The above information is not intended to violate any manufacture's specifications or instructions, but is to be used for interpretation of the Building Code.

**NOTE:** When additions are constructed, the existing house must comply with the City's handout for Smoke Detectors in Existing Single Family Dwellings

All forms and handouts are available on [www.cityofnapa.org](http://www.cityofnapa.org)