

Residential Smoke Alarm Guide

Lincoln County Fire Protection District

All smoke alarms and detectors shall be installed in accordance with the 2009 ICC International Fire Code, International Building Code, International Residential Code, NFPA Standards, District Ordinance, Manufacturer's Recommendations, and any other applicable codes, standards, or regulations.

The Inspector reserves the right to make field judgments that supercede these guidelines.

General Information

- All smoke alarms must be AC powered with battery back-up.
- All smoke alarms must be interconnected.

Location

Smoke alarms should be located in each of the following areas:

- All sleeping rooms.
- In the immediate vicinity of all sleeping rooms.
- On each additional story, including the basement.
- Enclosed mechanical rooms (ie: finished or partial finished basements)

Detectors should NOT be located:

- In bathrooms or outside bathrooms within 36" of the door.
- In kitchens or within 36" from kitchen doors.
- In garages or other areas where temperatures fall below 32 F or above 100 F.
- Within 36" of supply registers or heating or cooling systems.

Placement

Smoke alarms should be placed according the following:

- Ceiling Mount: Minimum 4" from all sidewalls, no matter angle of sidewall.
- Coffered Ceiling: Placed in the highest level of the ceiling.
- Vaulted Ceiling: Minimum 12" from peak, maximum 36" from peak.
- Sidewall Mount: Minimum 4" from ceiling, maximum 12" from ceiling.
- Sleeping Rooms: Maximum 18" from bedroom door on flat ceilings.
- Minimum 36" from return air vents.

Basements: Smoke detectors should be placed within 36" of the bottom tread of the stairway. Should the stair landing or other area near the bottom tread be enclosed, the smoke alarm should be located in the unfinished area of the basement within 18" of the door.