

DID YOU KNOW? Since 2012, working smoke alarms are required in every bedroom of a home or dwelling, and in cottages and cabins too.

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half.

The Newfoundland and Labrador *Fire Protection Services Regulations* under the *Fire Protection Services Act* state that smoke alarms shall be installed in:

- (a) New and existing dwelling units and in each sleeping room not within a dwelling unit;
- (b) Existing one and two family units, owner occupied or rented, unless governed by a municipal by-law;
- (c) Privately owned and occupied seasonal cottages and seasonal homes; and
- (d) Other areas which may be determined by the fire commissioner.

DWELLING UNIT is basically any structure that usually contains cooking, eating, living, sleeping and sanitary facilities. Dwelling can also be referred to as a house, apartment, condo, cabin, cottage, industrial camp and/or a boarding unit.

If you have a specific question about this new regulation, please contact Fire and Emergency Services-Newfoundland and Labrador by visiting <http://www.gov.nl.ca/fes/> or sending an e-mail to AreYouReadyNL@gov.nl.ca, or through one of the following ways:



Fire and Emergency Services
25 Hallett Crescent
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6



709-729-1608



http://www.twitter.com/FES_GovNL



SMOKE ALARM SAFETY TIPS

Smoke alarms save lives. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) should be installed in homes.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps", warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 year old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.
- If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a "hush" button. A "hush" button will reduce the alarm's sensitivity for a short period of time.
- An ionization alarm with a hush button or a photoelectric alarm should be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance.
- Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.
- Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These devices use strobe lights. Vibration devices can be added to these alarms.
- Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. Visit the National Fire Protection Association Website at <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/escape-planning/> to start a plan.