

# Residential Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

## Smoke Alarms

Each dwelling and dwelling unit must be provided with UL certified smoke detectors installed in accordance with **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72: National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code**. This applies to single-family homes, townhomes, apartments, hotels, lodging houses and similar occupancies.

Smoke alarms shall be in each sleeping room, immediately outside each sleeping room and on each additional story, including basements and habitable attics.

For new residential construction, smoke alarms must hardwire, have battery backup and be interconnected such that when one alarm is activated, all alarms in the individual unit are activated. Hard wiring of smoke alarms in existing areas is not required when alterations/repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes.

## Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

Carbon monoxide detectors are required in all residential buildings and dwelling units which have fuel-fired appliances or attached garages. They must be installed within 10 feet of each sleeping area and bedroom. Additionally, if there is a fuel burning appliance (such as a fireplace) in the sleeping area, a CO detector must be installed in the sleeping area.

CO detectors shall be UL certified and installed in accordance with **NFPA 720: Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment**.

CO detectors must be either electrically hardwired, directly plugged into an electrical outlet without a switch, or battery powered.

Figure 1: Example Placement of Smoke Alarms and CO Detectors in a Multi-Level and Single Level Home

