



MARBLEHEAD FIRE DEPARTMENT
One Ocean Avenue * Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
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Jason R. Gilliland
Chief

May 1, 2011

To: All Real Estate Agents

Re: Guidelines for Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector Locations (1 and 2 Family Homes)

All smoke detectors shall be placed on the ceiling, in the following locations:

Basement- on the ceiling at the base of the stairs leading to the 1st floor

First Floor- on the ceiling at the base of the stairs leading to the 2nd floor

Second Floor- on the ceiling at the top of the stairs, in the hall. If the hall is greater than 30' a 2nd detector shall be installed.

Any smoke detector located within 20' of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a tub or shower) shall be of the Photoelectric type smoke detector only; No ionization detectors are allowed within 20' of kitchen or bathroom.

NEW: As of April 5, 2010 – Any area that requires a smoke detector and is **NOT** within 20' of a kitchen or bathroom shall have **BOTH** Ionization **and** Photoelectric detectors installed in either a single unit or by means of two separate units. This “new” section only applies to homes constructed prior to January 1, 1975

As per Mass. General Law Chapter 148 Section 26F1/2 Carbon Monoxide Detectors are required on ALL habitable levels of any home that contains fossil fuel burning equipment or incorporates enclosed parking within the structure.

The location of CO detectors shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. A CO detector shall be located on each level including habitable portions of basements, cellars, and attics, but not including crawl spaces.

On any level with a sleeping area, the alarm shall be located outside the sleeping area such as in a hallway but shall not exceed 10 ft. from any bedroom door.

Any combination smoke/CO detector must employ both simulated voice and tone features that clearly distinguishes between carbon monoxide and smoke notification, in accordance with NFPA 720, 5.3.4.

Please test all detectors before our appointment!

***PLEASE NOTE: As of January 1, 2010 a re-inspection fee of \$50.00 will be in effect.**

My office hours are Monday-Thursday 7:30am-9:00am and 1:00pm-2:00pm. The office is closed on Fridays and Holidays. Please call **during** office hours to schedule appointments. A two week notice is required and appointments are scheduled on a first-come first-serve basis.

NFPA 72 requires that all smoke detectors be replaced after 10 years. If you are not sure how old they are – Replace Them!

If you have any questions, please call 781-639-3428

Captain Michael A. Porter
Fire Prevention Bureau