



# Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department Office of the Fire Marshal

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Guidelines and Specifications For:

## Smoke Alarms

### Applicable Codes and Standards:

VSFPC - Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (2018)  
NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code (2016)  
SCC – Stafford County Code (Chapter 12)

| Installation Location and Testing  | Code Section                           |
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| Smoke alarms should be maintained in accordance with their approved installation and are typically required in homes, hotels and apartments at the following locations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In each room used for sleeping purposes.</li> <li>2) On the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.</li> <li>3) In each story within a dwelling unit.</li> </ol> | VSFPC 907.2.11<br>NFPA 72,<br>11.5.1.1 |
| In new construction, smoke alarms should be interconnected so that when one alarm activates, all alarms activate in the dwelling unit.   | VSFPC<br>907.2.11.3                    |
| In new construction, smoke alarms must receive power from the building wiring and be equipped with battery back-up.  | VSFPC<br>907.2.11.4                    |
| Smoke alarms should be tested monthly and replaced every 10 years  | NFPA 72, 10.4.5                        |

| Additional Requirements for Multi-Family Building Owners and Tenants  | Code Section             |
|---|--------------------------|
| The owner of a multi-family building must provide smoke alarms in public areas and maintain that they are in good working order with inspections and testing.   | SCC 12-62,<br>907.9.3    |
| The owner of a multi-family building must provide each new tenant a written certificate that all required smoke alarms are present, have been inspected and are in good working order. In addition they must provide the tenant with written notification of the tenant's responsibilities (see below). | SCC 12-62,<br>907.9.3(c) |
| The tenant of a multi-family building is responsible for reasonable care and testing of any smoke alarms in their dwelling unit. They must also provide written notification to the building owner of any repairs or maintenance needed.  | SCC 12-62,<br>907.9.3(d) |

| Diagrams and Illustrations | Code Section         |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
|                            | NFPA 72,<br>11.5.1.1 |