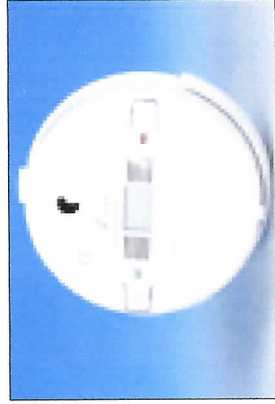


Carbon Monoxide Alarm Basics

On February 22, 2010, Amanda's Law went into effect in New York State. This law was written after the tragic death of a 16 year old girl in Buffalo, who was poisoned by a Carbon Monoxide leak from a faulty boiler while sleeping at a friends house.



Amanda's law requires that all one or two family and multiple dwelling units have a carbon monoxide alarm which meets state standards, if the dwelling unit has an appliance, device or system capable of producing carbon monoxide or an attached garage.

This law is retroactive for all dwelling units in New York State.

New York State, Department of State has adopted emergency rules to incorporate the provisions of Amanda's Law into the New York State Building Code.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Sources

A carbon monoxide source includes fuel fired devices such as gas or oil heaters, stoves, gas hot water heaters, solid fuel burning devices such as coal, pellet, wood, or corn stoves, fireplaces and furnaces. Gas powered automobiles, lawnmowers, snowmobiles, motorcycles, and emergency generators are also a source of carbon monoxide

A house which utilizes only electric, including heat, and has no attached garage does not have a carbon monoxide source, and therefore does not need a carbon monoxide alarm.

A house with an attached garage, even if electric is the sole energy source, is considered to have a carbon monoxide source and will require an alarm to be installed.

Common Terms

Dwelling Unit-Single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation. (Ex. Your House)

Sleeping area-Room or space in which people sleep, within a dwelling or sleeping unit. (Ex. Bedrooms.)

Sleeping unit-Room or space in which people sleep, that can also include permanent provisions for living, eating, and **either** sanitation or kitchen facilities but **not both**. (Ex. In-law apartment which has its own living room, bedrooms, bathroom but shares kitchen with the main dwelling)

One and Two Family Dwellings

One and two family dwellings have slightly different regulations for carbon monoxide alarms depending on when they were constructed.

Dwellings built after January 1, 2008:

Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed in following dwelling or sleeping unit locations:

1. On each story having a sleeping area.
2. On each story having a carbon monoxide source, including basements.

If a story has a sleeping area and a carbon monoxide source, one alarm is required for that story.

All carbon monoxide alarms are required to be hard wired to building power with battery backup. Where more than one carbon monoxide alarm is required, all alarms shall be hard-wired to building power and interconnected with battery backup.

Dwellings built before January 1, 2008:

Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed in following dwelling or sleeping unit locations:

1. On the lowest story having a sleeping area

Carbon monoxide alarms are allowed to be plug in type with battery backup or battery operated.

Multi-Family Dwellings

Common Terms

Dwelling Unit-Single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Sleeping area-Room or space in which people sleep.

Sleeping unit-Room or space in which people sleep, that can also include permanent provisions for living, eating, and **either** sanitation or kitchen facilities but **not both**. Such rooms and spaces that are part of a dwelling unit are not a sleeping unit. They are a sleeping area.

Multiple Dwelling-A dwelling which is either leased, rented, let or hired out, to be occupied, or is occupied as the temporary or permanent residence or home of three or more families living independently of each other, including but not limited to the following:

Tenement, flat house, marionette apartment, apartment house, apartment hotel, tourist house, bachelor apartment, studio apartment, duplex apartment, kitchenette apartment, hotel, lodging house, rooming house, boarding house, boarding and nursery school, furnished room house, club, sorority house, fraternity house, college and school dormitory, convalescent, old age or nursing homes or residences and a dwelling, two or more stories in height, and with five or more boarders, roomers or lodgers residing with any one family.

Multi-Family Dwellings

Required alarms

Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed in following dwelling or sleeping unit locations:

1. On each story having a sleeping area.
2. On each story having a carbon monoxide source, including basements.

If a story has a sleeping area and a carbon monoxide source, one alarm is required for that story.

All carbon monoxide alarms are required to be hard wired to building power with battery backup.

Where more than one carbon monoxide alarm is required, all alarms shall be hard-wired to building power and interconnected, with battery backup.

Exception

In existing buildings, constructed before January 1, 2008, cord type, direct plug, or battery operated carbon monoxide alarms are permitted. Interconnection is not required where these alarms are allowed.

Important Information

This pamphlet covers basic regulations for the home owner, property owner, or tenant. A complete set of regulations can be found on the New York State, Department of State website or by contacting your local Code Enforcement Official.

Please remember Amanda's Law and the associated NYS regulations are retroactive for all dwellings.

All alarms must be UL 2034 or CAN/CSA 6.19 listed to be allowed for installation. These listings can be found on the alarm box .



Please contact your local Code Enforcement Office with any questions on this very important topic.