



Clallam County Fire District 3

Motto: *Serve, Respect,
Prevent and Protect*

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Installation Recommendations

Legal Requirement: Installation of Carbon Monoxide Alarms is required by Washington State law ([RCW 19.27.530](#)).

- ◆ All **new** single family homes and residences, including apartments, condominiums, hotels, and motels are required to have CO alarms installed.
- ◆ CO alarms must be installed in all **existing** apartments, condominiums, hotels, motels, and single family residences.
- ◆ Owner-occupied single-family residences, legally occupied before July 26, 2009, are not required to have CO alarms installed until they are sold. The seller is required to equip the residence with CO alarms before any other person legally occupies the home. Refer to [RCW 19.27.530](#) for limited exemptions from these rules.

How should I install a CO alarm?

- ◆ Install a CO alarm that meets the requirements of the current [UL 2034](#) or CSA 6.19 safety standards. Certified products will be plainly labeled with the UL® or CSO® mark on the device, packaging, and information sheets.
- ◆ CO alarms should be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions – placement is critical to successful alarm operation. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends CO alarms be installed in the hallway outside each separate sleeping area of the home. CO alarms may be installed into a plug-in receptacle or high on the wall. Hard wired or plug-in CO alarms should have battery backup. Avoid locations that are near heating vents or that can be covered by furniture or draperies.
- ◆ The CPSC does not recommend installing CO alarms in kitchens or above fuel-burning appliances. A CO alarm can provide some added protection, but it is no substitute for proper use and upkeep of appliances that can produce CO.

Should CO alarms be used in motor homes, boats and other recreational vehicles?

- ◆ CO alarms are available for boats and recreational vehicles and should be used. The Recreation Vehicle Industry Association requires CO alarms in motor homes and in towable recreational vehicles that have a generator or are prepped for a generator.

Testing your CO alarm

- ◆ Consumers should follow the manufacturer's instructions. Using a test button, tests whether the circuitry is operating correctly, not the accuracy of the sensor. Alarms have a recommended replacement age, which can be obtained from the product literature or from the manufacturer.