



Aug 1, 2011

Re: Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Recent code adoption reiterates the need for carbon monoxide detectors to be installed in new construction and existing structures. The State of Colorado already mandates that monoxide alarms be installed in residential properties. The 2009 International Residential Code reads as follows:

**SECTION R315
CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS**

R315.1 Carbon monoxide alarms. *For new construction, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms in dwelling units within which fuel-fired appliances are installed and in dwelling units that have attached garages.*

R315.2 Where required in existing dwellings. *Where work requiring a permit occurs in existing dwellings that have attached garages or in existing dwellings within which fuel-fired appliances exist, carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided in accordance with Section R315.1.*

R315.3 Alarm requirements. *Single station carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034 and shall be installed in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's installation instructions.*

New construction requirements are obvious, but the existing dwelling requirements need some interpretation.

EXAMPLES

Permits requiring alarms

- Remodels, basement finishes, additions
- Furnace, water heater, boiler replacements, AC installations
- Gas log, fireplace, or wood fireplace installations
- Electrical circuits, outlets, panel upgrade
- Potable water, DWV piping or relocation

Permits not requiring alarms

- Decks, reroofing, stucco, siding
- AC condenser replacement including electrical
- Lawn sprinkler