Location and Power Sources for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Existing law requires an owner of a dwelling intended for human occupancy to install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. These devices must be installed in the locations and in the manners set forth by the State Fire Marshal. Several types of detectors are available, and so it is pertinent to always read the manufacturer’s instructions to where a particular model should be placed. The general locations of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are provided below.

**Placement of Smoke Alarm:**

- In each sleeping room.
- Outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
- On each additional story, including basements, habitable attics, and split levels.
- In the case of apartment complexes and other multiple-dwelling complexes, a smoke detector must be installed in the common stairwells.

**Placement of Carbon Monoxide Alarm:**

- In each existing dwelling unit having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or an attached garage.
- They should not be placed too close to a furnace to avoid false alarms from going off; at least 10 to 20 feet away.
- Outside of each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.
- On every level of a dwelling unit including basements.