



# Informational Bulletin

## Smoke Alarm Installation Project

Date: August 22, 2018

Number: 18.023

Effective Date: August 22, 2018

Expiration Date: N/A

Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief

According to the Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office, Virginia experienced 39 fire fatalities in the first quarter of 2018. Also, fire-related deaths and injuries are highest in homes without smoke detectors.

Effective September 1, 2018 the department will be implementing a smoke alarm installation program. The week of August 27, smoke alarms, batteries, and installation tools and supplies will be delivered to each station and meetings will be conducted with Battalion Chiefs to provide the program information to their shift personnel.

Installations can be requested by residents by calling the office at 540-422-8800, emailing [smokealarm@fauquiercounty.gov](mailto:smokealarm@fauquiercounty.gov) or performed if a unit identifies a need while already in a residence for another emergency. When the office receives a request the information will be routed to the appropriate Battalion Chief who then routes the request to the appropriate station. Personnel at the station will make contact with the resident and schedule a date and time for installation. Installations should be completed within 5 days of the office receiving the request. **FRF 929 must be completed for each residence where smoke alarms were installed and returned to the office.**

If someone in the home is deaf or hard of hearing there is a separate alarm required. Please submit a request to the office so one can be requested.

### Installing smoke alarms

- Smoke alarms should be installed according to NFPA 72 and the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings.
- If ceilings are pitched, install the alarm near the ceiling's highest point.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Smoke alarms should not be installed in attics, bathrooms, or garages.
- Install smoke alarms away from the kitchen to prevent false alarms. Generally, they should be at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance.

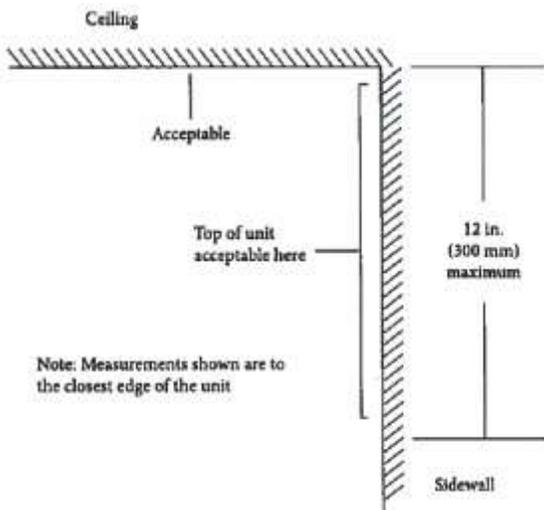
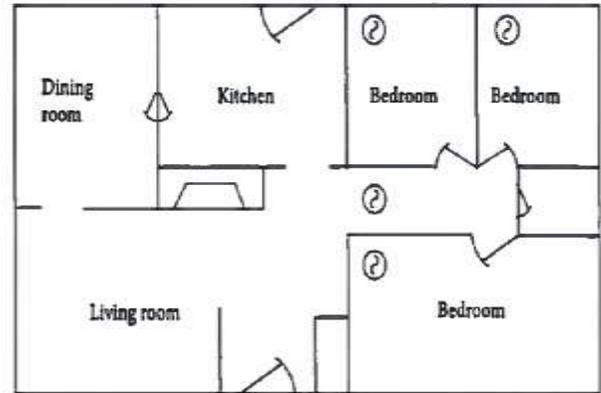
Questions regarding this bulleting should be directed to Captain Russell Baker or Emergency Management Coordinator Sara Makely.

# Smoke Alarm Installation and Maintenance

## Alarm Placement

Smoke alarms should be installed according to NFPA 72 and the manufacturer's instructions. Head and smoke rise, so smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling or high on a wall to detect the first traces of smoke.

If a room has a high pitched (slanted) ceiling, mount the unit near the ceiling's highest point, 4 to 12 inches (10 to 30.5 centimeters) away from the wall. If the room has an A-frame ceiling, mount the unit at least 4 to 12 inches (10 to 30.5 centimeters) away from the peak.



Wall-mounted smoke alarms should be installed so that the top of the alarm is not more than 12 inches (30.5 centimeters) from the ceiling.

Install basement smoke alarms close to the bottom of the stairs. Don't install an alarm at the top of the basement stairs; dead air trapped near the closed door could prevent smoke from reaching the unit. Some household environments can cause nuisance alarms or interfere with a smoke alarm's operation. Avoid placing alarms near a cooking appliance, a dusty area, a shower, or any area where the temperature drops below 40°F (4.5°C) or rises above 110°F (43°C).

Cooking fumes, steam, and automobile exhaust can result in nuisance alarms. Do not install alarms in bathrooms, kitchens, garages, attics, or unheated areas or near recessed ceiling areas, ceiling fans, furnaces, or furnace vents. Place alarms at least 3 feet (0.9 meter) horizontally from bathroom doors.

