

Winslow Township Fire Department Fire Prevention Division Instructions for Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarm Inspections

Why must I have an inspection before selling my home?

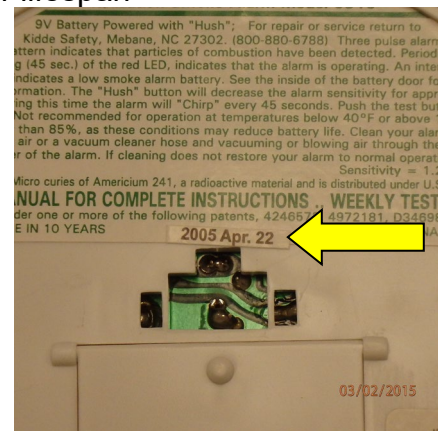
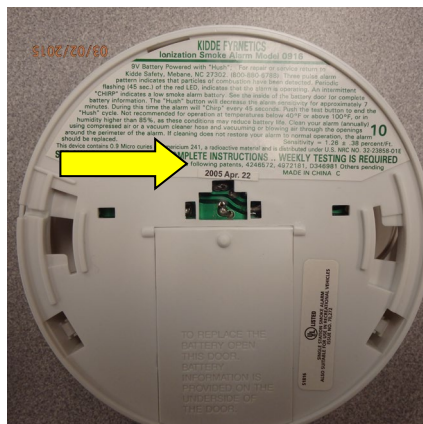
1. To ensure the smoke alarms installed when your home was originally built are in place and properly operating; or,
 - a. To provide and install a minimum of battery-operated smoke alarms on each level of homes built before smoke alarms were required (1977).
 - b. Ten-year sealed battery powered single station smoke alarms shall be installed with ANSI/UL 217.
2. Because over 80% of fire deaths are due to Smoke Inhalation, **Working alarms save lives.**
3. To ensure that Carbon Monoxide Alarms are properly installed and working (April 7, 2003).
4. To comply with the law in New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-198.2)

What does the Inspection Involve?

A uniformed member of the Fire Department will visit your home at a scheduled time and spray smoke simulation agent into your smoke alarm(s) and test button your carbon monoxide alarm(s) to ensure that all the required devices are working properly. Your portable fire extinguisher will be checked to ensure it is the proper type, size and is in current date, as well as properly located and mounted. If everything is in order, **you will be given a certificate** to bring with you to settlement.

What must I do to prepare for the inspection?

1. Complete an application for Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Certification.
2. Pay the required fee and schedule the inspection.
3. Make sure that the alarms are properly located and mounted securely. Alarms should not be closer than five feet to a ceiling fan, and ceiling mounting is preferred. Refer to the literature provided with the equipment, or the attached map for further instructions.
4. Test all your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms by pressing and holding the test buttons until the device activates.
5. Replace outdated alarms—the date of manufacture is located on the underside of the device
 - a. Smoke Alarms should not be more than ten years old.
 - b. Carbon Monoxide Alarms
 - i. some CO alarm sensors have seven (7) year lifespan
 - ii. other CO alarm sensors have ten (10) year lifespan



- c. Carbon Monoxide Alarms
 - i. some CO alarm sensors have seven (7) year lifespan
 - ii. other CO alarm sensors have ten (10) year lifespan
 - iii. carbon monoxide alarms must be installed per manufacturer specifications.
- 6. Replace the batteries, as needed.
- 7. Clean the alarms by using a strong vacuum or blowing them out with compressed air.
- 8. Install additional alarms where needed. (refer to attached map)

What are the requirements for Homes with 110-volt, Interconnected Alarms?

1. **AC Power MUST BE “ON” in order to test these alarms!!!**
 - a. If AC Power is not turned on, no inspection will be performed, and no certification will be issued.
2. If your home has 110-volt AC alarms that are part of an interconnected system, **all the alarms must activate when any one is tested!** The intent is to ensure you are alerted should if a fire beak breaks out on a different level. If ALL your interconnected alarms are not sounding, you should hire a qualified, licensed Electrician to make repairs.
 - i. Placing a single-station battery alarm in place of the 110-volt detector will result in Failure, possibly delaying settlement.

Where are Smoke Alarm(s) Required?

Depending upon when your house was built, a minimum of one on every level (typically basement, near steps to second floor, and in corridor near bedroom within ten feet of sleeping rooms. (See attached map for more information.)

Smoke Alarms should be located:

- At the base of basement steps, (on the ceiling) nearest the steps.
- At the base of the stairs (on the ceiling) nearest steps to a second floor or level.
- At the top of steps to any attic **served by fixed steps.**

Smoke Alarms are NOT required:

- Attics accessible by hatches, scuttles, pull-down steps or ladders.
- Crawl spaces without fixed permanent steps
- Do not place alarms on the sloped ceiling of a stairwell.

Where are Carbon Monoxide Alarm(s) Required?

In homes equipped with **any fuel burning appliance or attached garage.** Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed in corridor in the immediate area of sleeping room(s) of your home. The alarms may be battery operated, 110-volt plug-in or 110-volt hard wired. You may install a combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarm which contains both sensors inside one unit, if you wish.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms should be located:

- In the hallway area outside of the sleeping room(s) in all dwellings with attached garages, a fuel burning appliance or fireplace.
 - They may not be placed inside a bedroom or bathroom
- Most homes will require one alarm, if all the sleeping rooms are in one level/area.

My Home is 100% Electric, with NO Attached Garage, and NO Fireplace. Do I need a Carbon Monoxide Alarm?

Since carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion, and you do **not** have a fuel burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage, you are exempt from the carbon monoxide requirement. Only smoke alarms would be required.

My home has a monitored (supervised) Security Alarm System. Will this be tested?

No. If you installed a home security system in lieu of smoke alarms, a NJ Certified Fire Alarm contractor will have to certify your system. Please **provide a copy of this report to our inspector**. We can only test alarms required by the NJ Uniform Construction Code at time of construction.

How Can I keep my Alarms working?

1. Change your batteries twice a year. When you change the clocks, change the batteries.
2. Ensure ten-year sealed battery powered single station smoke alarms are installed (ANSI/UL 217)!
3. Keep your alarms clean. Vacuum them out with a strong vacuum, or blow them out with compressed air. (Canned air used to clean computers works well)
4. Replace the alarms **when they reach their lifespan as recommended by manufacturer**.
6. Locate alarms away from nuisance sources. Alarms should not be placed in kitchens or bathrooms, near furnaces or fireplaces or dusty places.
7. **TEST YOUR ALARMS MONTHLY!** Replace defective alarms immediately!

Fees All Checks must be payable to: "Winslow Township Fire District"

Price for Application fee:

All fees are non-refundable

8+ days advance notice	\$65.00
7-4 days advance notice	\$100.00
3 or less day's notice	\$150.00
Senior Citizen's Discount (62- Or Older Proof of age attached)	\$30.00
Re-inspection (per visit)	\$35.00
Failure to keep appointment	\$35.00

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ALARMS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHER *BEFORE* YOU SCHEDULE AN INSPECTION TO AVOID REINSPECTION FEES AND DELAYED SETTLEMENT!!

Questions?

Call the Winslow Township Fire Marshal at 609-561-4225 or e-mail at firedistrict@winslowtwpfd.org for more information.