



City of Arlington Economic & Community Development

238 N. Olympic Avenue Arlington, WA 98223

New Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Legislation

As we ring in the New Year January 1, 2013 you should also be aware that a new law becomes effective the same day, which requires ALL Residential Occupancies to be equipped with Carbon Monoxide Alarms.

The new legislation in WA State was prompted by an increasing number of CO related incidents reported in the United States. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can cause serious illness or death. CO is generated from fuel-burning appliances, fireplaces, and vehicles. Due to recent catastrophic events such as hurricanes, tornados, and other disasters that cause power outages – statistics show that many have resorted to the use of auxiliary heating and cooking appliances within their dwellings, such as charcoal grilles, generators, and kerosene heaters. These appliances generate large amounts of CO gas and unless an operable CO detector is present – the situation will go undetected.

Installation

CO alarms are required to be installed outside the area of sleeping rooms and on each floor level. CO alarms are very reasonably priced and can be purchased at local hardware and home improvement stores. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for proper installation and make sure that the product complies with UL 2034.

Further Information

It is for this reason that the State has adopted the new state-wide law through the building codes, which will require all owner-occupied residential dwellings, apartment complexes, and rental units to install CO alarms. There are exceptions and provisions with the new law so if you have any questions please contact the City of Arlington Permit Center for more detailed information at 360-403-3551