



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING, PLANNING, & ZONING

# VILLAGE OF NEW PALTZ

25 Plattekill Avenue, New Paltz, NY 12561

**FIRE INSPECTOR**

## CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS – RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

**Amanda's Law** was named in honor of Buffalo resident Amanda Hansen, a teenage girl who lost her life to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from a defective boiler when sleeping over at a friend's house in January 2009.

Beginning February 22, 2010, a new law went into effect in New York to help protect families and other residents from carbon monoxide poisoning.

### The law requires the following:

- CO detection shall be provided in every new and existing **one and two-family dwellings**, multifamily dwellings and rentals having a fuel-burning appliance, system or attached garage.

Note: These requirements shall apply without regard to whether such residential building is an existing residential building or a new residential building and without regard to whether such residential building shall or shall not have been offered for sale

### Important information regarding this law:

- Placement of CO detection:
  - On each story containing a sleeping area, within 15 feet of the sleeping area. More than one carbon monoxide alarm shall be provided where necessary to assure that no sleeping area on such story is more than 15 feet away from a carbon monoxide alarm.
  - On each story that contains a carbon monoxide source.
- Types of detection equipment allowed:
  - CO alarms/detectors
    - CO alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring, and when primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than that required for overcurrent protection. (Plug-in type detectors are not allowed in newly constructed buildings)
    - In **existing** residential buildings built prior to January 1, 2008, CO alarms may be battery operated, cord-type or direct plug.
    - CO alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 2034.
    - CO alarms shall be installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Maintenance of CO alarms/detectors shall be maintained in accordance with NFPA 720. CO alarms and CO detectors that become inoperable or begin producing end-of-life signals shall be replaced as soon as practicable.

*Notice: This information is a summary interpretation of the 2017 NYS Supplement to the Uniform Fire Code §915.2 and was prepared as general reference material only. This summary is not authoritative. For your specific compliance requirements, please refer to the actual language the 2017 NYS Supplement to the Uniform Fire Code §915.2 or consult legal counsel.*

What should **YOU** do if the Carbon Monoxide alarm sounds?

- **STAY CALM.**
- To decide whether emergency services should be called, ask everyone in the building:
  - Do you feel ill?
  - Do you have flu-like symptoms of headache, nausea, or dizziness?
- If the answer to these questions by anyone in the house is “yes,” evacuate the house and have someone call the fire department **immediately**. Failure to get out immediately may result in prolonged exposure, worsening effects from the CO. The best initial treatment for CO exposure is fresh air. (Do **not** ventilate by opening windows and doors. By doing this the fire department will be able to detect the source faster)
- If the answer to the questions, by everyone, is “no,” the likelihood of a serious exposure is much less and you may not need to call the fire department. Instead, turn off all fuel-burning devices, ventilate the area, and attempt resetting the alarm. If the alarm will not reset or resounds, call a qualified technician to inspect, service, and/or repair your fuel-burning device. If at any time during this process someone begins to feel ill with the symptoms described above, evacuate everyone from the building to a safe location and call the fire department.
- **If you are unsure then call 911 for the fire department to respond, better to be too safe!**

*“Fire Safety Pamphlet: Carbon Monoxide” NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control  
[www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc](http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc)*

If you have any questions regarding the info presented in this sheet please contact the Village of New Paltz Building Department during working hours.

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