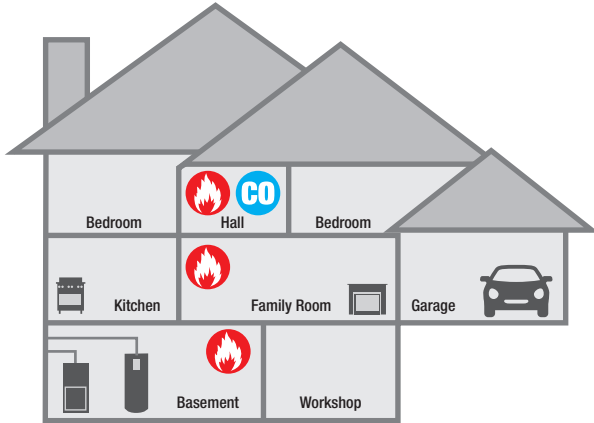


# Alarm Installation Locations

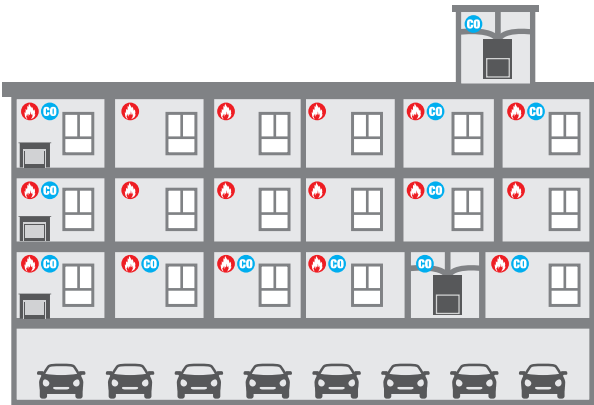
Be sure to install your alarms in the required areas of you living space.

## Detached Residence/Townhouse



- Required Smoke Alarms
- Required CO Alarms

## Apartments/Condominiums



- Required Smoke Alarms
- Required CO Alarms

# FIRE WON'T WAIT... CHECK YOUR ALARMS!



For all emergencies dial

# 9-1-1



For more information contact  
Mat Williamson, Fire Prevention Officer – Captain  
Township of Guelph/Eramosa  
519-835-6724

8348 Wellington Road 124  
Rockwood ON NOB 2K0  
[www.get.on.ca/living-here/fire-department](http://www.get.on.ca/living-here/fire-department)



*Fire Prevention through Public Education*

# SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM SAFETY

Check your alarms today.



## Smoke Alarms

The largest percentage of fire deaths in the home occurs at night while people are sleeping. Working smoke alarms provide early warning and time to escape.

Every home must have working smoke alarms on every level and outside all sleeping areas.

### Buying the Right Alarm

There are several types of smoke alarms with different features. Alarms can be electrically connected, battery powered or a combination of both. Many alarms have a pause or hush feature, which can be used to temporarily silence nuisance alarms.

### Where to Install Smoke Alarms

Install smoke alarms on the ceiling because smoke rises. If that's not an option, place high on the wall in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Avoid placing close to bathrooms, heating appliances or close to windows and ceiling fans. For added protection, install additional alarms inside the bedrooms.



### Smoke Alarm Safety Checklist

- Test smoke alarms monthly
- Change the batteries once per year
- Gently vacuum annually with soft brush



## 10 YEAR ALARM EXPIRY

Smoke and CO alarms expire after 10 years. Check alarms for a "replace by" date sticker.

If there is no date, it is likely expired and should be replaced with a new alarm. Inspect your alarms regularly and replace them sooner if they are damaged, painted or not working.

## Managing Nuisance Alarms

A nuisance alarm is when a smoke alarm accidentally activates, often due to cooking or steam from the shower. Here are some simple but effective ways to address the problem:

- **Keep ovens and burners clean.** Turn down the timer settings on toasters and use the fan on the range hood when cooking.
- **Install smoke alarms with a pause or hush feature.** When pressed, the unit will silence for several minutes. The alarm will then reset automatically.
- **Move the alarm to a different location.** Avoid having a smoke alarm in cooking areas. Moving an alarm from the kitchen to the hallway could easily solve your problem.
- **Try alternative technology.** Smoke alarms use one of two technologies to detect smoke: ionization or photoelectric. Check product packaging for type of sensing technology. It's recommended to install photoelectric smoke alarms near the kitchens and bathrooms to reduce frequent nuisance alarms.

### Alarms for the Hearing Impaired

High-decibel smoke alarms, strobe lights and bed shaking devices are available for the or hard-of-hearing. Visit the Canadian Hearing Service's website at [www.chs.ca](http://www.chs.ca) for information.

### Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas formed by the incomplete combustion of fuels. You cannot see, hear, taste or smell CO, that's why it's known as the "silent killer". In enclosed spaces like your home or vehicle, even a small amount of CO can be life threatening.

It's the law that you must have CO alarms outside each sleeping area in your home and residential buildings with fuel-burning appliances, heating systems, fireplaces or attached garages.

### CO in Condo/Apartment Buildings

In all multi-unit residential buildings with attached garages or service rooms, CO alarms are required near each sleeping area in each unit with a common wall, floor or ceiling with the garage or service room.

## CO Safety Checklist

Follow these tips to keep you and your family safe:



- check that outside vents are clear and not blocked;
- for additional protection, install a CO alarm on every level of your home;
- get an inspection for all fuel-burning appliances in your home at least once a year;
- if a combination smoke and CO alarm is used, make sure it's installed on the ceiling so it will detect smoke effectively since smoke rises;
- Keep lots of space around space heaters;
- never use a portable fuel-burning appliance, like a barbecue, inside your home;
- unlike smoke, which rises to the ceiling, CO mixes with air. To work properly, a CO alarm should not be blocked by furniture, curtains or other obstructions to normal air flow;
- always refer to the manufacturer's instructions for additional information regarding proper installation, use and maintenance of your alarm(s).

### Seniors/Persons Requiring Assistance

Guelph/Eramosa Township residents over the age of 65 and persons with disabilities or limited mobility who need assistance maintaining home smoke and CO alarms are eligible for this program. Participants will receive a free annual in-home visit from on-duty firefighters who will:



- test your smoke alarms and CO alarms to make sure they are working and properly installed in the right locations of your home;
- replace alarm batteries (including back-up batteries in hard-wired alarms);
- install or replace battery-operated smoke and CO alarms if needed.

**Important:** If you have hard-wired alarms in your home, the units must be installed, replaced and/or serviced by a licensed technician/electrician.

**For program information please call 519-835-6724.**