February 7, 2012

Subject: Smoke Detectors Requirements for Dwelling Units

The State Fire Marshal’s Agency has adopted the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code. In NFPA 101: 24.3.4 (2000 ed.) the code specifies that smoke alarms in one and two family dwelling units are to be installed in the following locations and manner:

1. All sleeping rooms
2. Outside of each separate sleeping area, in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping rooms
3. On each level of the dwelling unit, including basements.

EXISTING DWELLINGS:
Smoke alarms may be battery operated.

NEW DWELLINGS:
Smoke alarms are to be hard-wired into the electrical system of the dwelling or a plug-in type.

Nebraska State Statute § 81-5,142 addresses the requirement for smoke detectors in certain dwellings. Some of the dwellings referenced are apartment houses, lodging houses, hotels, dormitories, mobile homes, and modular housing units. The referenced dwellings are required to have working smoke detectors, and if a dwelling referenced under this statute is sold, it is the responsibility of the seller to make sure that functional smoke detectors are provided. To ensure complete understanding of this issue, read the statute in full.

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