



Rancho Palos Verdes Building & Safety Division SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS

R314.3.1 SMOKE ALARMS:

When alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings.

R314.3 Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations: (See the diagram on reverse)

1. Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. (i.e. hallway)
2. On each story of the dwelling, including basements and habitable attics but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

When more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling, the alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit.

R314.4 Power Source:

Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring when such is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Smoke alarms with integral strobes that are not equipped with battery backup shall be connected to an emergency electrical system. Smoke alarms emit a signal when the batteries are low. Wiring shall be permanent and without disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection.

Exceptions:

1. *Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing buildings where no construction is taking place.*
2. *Smoke alarms are permitted to be battery operated in buildings that are not served from a commercial power source.*
3. *Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing areas undergoing alterations or repairs that do not result in the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for building wiring without the removal of interior finishes.*

R314.5 Interconnection:

Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling or sleeping unit, the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.

Exceptions:

1. *Interconnection is not required in buildings that are not undergoing alterations, repairs or construction of a kind.*
2. *Smoke alarms in existing areas are not required to be interconnected where alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic crawl space or basement available which could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.*

Smoke Alarm Diagram

