



Safe At Home

Canada's Home Safety Guide

How To **Protect Your Family** From Fire And Carbon Monoxide Tragedy

Supported by:



"Most fires and most fire and carbon monoxide deaths are preventable. On behalf of fire departments, fire fighters and public education officials across this province, I urge all citizens to do everything necessary to be Safe At Home.

Please review this Guide carefully and keep it someplace handy. **Then be sure your home complies with BC's new smoke alarm law coming into effect on May 1, 2010.** Check every smoke alarm and every CO alarm in your home and add, replace or install fresh batteries as necessary."

Dave Ferguson, Deputy Fire Commissioner, Emergency Management BC



www.safeathome.ca

This Guide is brought to you by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. The CAFC is at the forefront of educating Canadians about fire and carbon monoxide safety. This Guide was made possible by the generous support of Kidde Canada. As the world's largest manufacturer of fire safety products, Kidde's mission is to provide solutions that protect people and property from the effects of fire and its related hazards. For more than 90 years industry leaders, the military, airlines and firefighters have relied on Kidde to deliver superior fire detection and suppression. Consumers will find that same advanced technology in Kidde's residential and commercial smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, fire extinguishers and other life safety products.



Inside...

- **FREE Escape Plan** to do with your kids
- Tips to **stop annoying false alarms**
- Make **your home safer** from top to bottom
- The only way to detect the **"silent killer"**

**IT'S
THE LAW!**

New B.C.
smoke alarm law
in effect May 1

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Working Smoke Alarms: It's The Law!

An amendment to the BC Fire Code enhances the current smoke alarm requirements in the province. As of May 1, 2010, homes and sleeping rooms that were built prior to British Columbia's Building Code smoke alarm requirements, must now have working smoke alarms provided for occupants. This applies to all single-family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented.



For homeowners to comply, it's as simple as purchasing the required smoke alarms and installing them outside all sleeping areas. Landlords must also make sure their rental properties comply. Tenants should contact landlords immediately if they do not have the required smoke alarm, or, the smoke alarm provided is not working. Once installed, tenants should never remove the batteries or tamper with the alarm in any way.

Don't wait! Comply with this new BC smoke alarm law today.

If you have a fire can your family get out?

When your smoke alarms go off, will everyone know how to escape? Don't leave it to chance! First help your children recognize the sound of smoke alarms, then sit down with them to draw an Escape Plan. Be sure to map out TWO escape routes from each room in your home and also agree on an outside meeting place. Practise often! Download a free Escape Plan template at www.safeathome.ca/media/safetyplan.pdf



Time To Get Serious About Carbon Monoxide

A recent national Home Safety survey found:

- **60%** of Canadians DO NOT have a carbon monoxide alarm
- **44%** DO NOT have heating systems checked annually
- **18%** believe CO alarms only needed if you have a GAS FURNACE

Statistics like this terrify John Gignac. His niece Laurie Hawkins was fatally poisoned by carbon monoxide, along with her husband and two children, one year ago. A blocked chimney vent caused the lethal gas to flow back into their home. They did not have a CO alarm.

The Hawkins family were fatally poisoned by CO gas in December 2008.



You need a carbon monoxide alarm if you have:



A GAS RANGE AND
PROPANE APPLIANCES



AN ATTACHED GARAGE
OR CARPORT



GAS OR OIL
WATER HEATER



GAS OR OIL FURNACE



WOOD OR GAS FIREPLACE

Have your heating systems and fuel-burning appliances checked annually. Install CO alarms on each level of your home and outside all sleeping areas. And if the CO alarms you have now are more than 5-7 years old, replace them.

www.endthesilence.ca



HAWKINS-GIGNAC
FOUNDATION FOR CO AWARENESS
FONDATION DE LA SENSIBILISATION AU CO

The Right Safety Choices

to Protect Your Family Top to Bottom

Make it easy on yourself to ensure your family is safe from fire and carbon monoxide, no matter where you are in your home or cottage. Just consult the legend and illustration below!



Ionization Smoke Alarms

Install on every level and outside/inside bedrooms if you sleep with doors closed. Your best alarm choice for detecting fast-flaming fires.



Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Best near kitchen. Best at detecting slow, smoldering fires. Less nuisance alarms in kitchen areas.



Carbon Monoxide Alarm

Install on every level and outside sleeping areas. Your only protection from this deadly colourless, odourless and tasteless gas. Digital readout model is your best choice to monitor air quality and be warned before major problems can occur.



Combination Smoke/CO Alarm with Voice Alert

Good choice for hallways outside sleeping areas. Protects from both fire and CO dangers. Voice alarm shouts "Fire! Fire!" or "Warning - Carbon Monoxide!" Even warns you when batteries get low!



Safety Ladders (2 storey)

One per bedroom located on upper floor(s). Your best choice to ensure there is a second escape route via a window if stairway is blocked by fire.



Fire Extinguishers

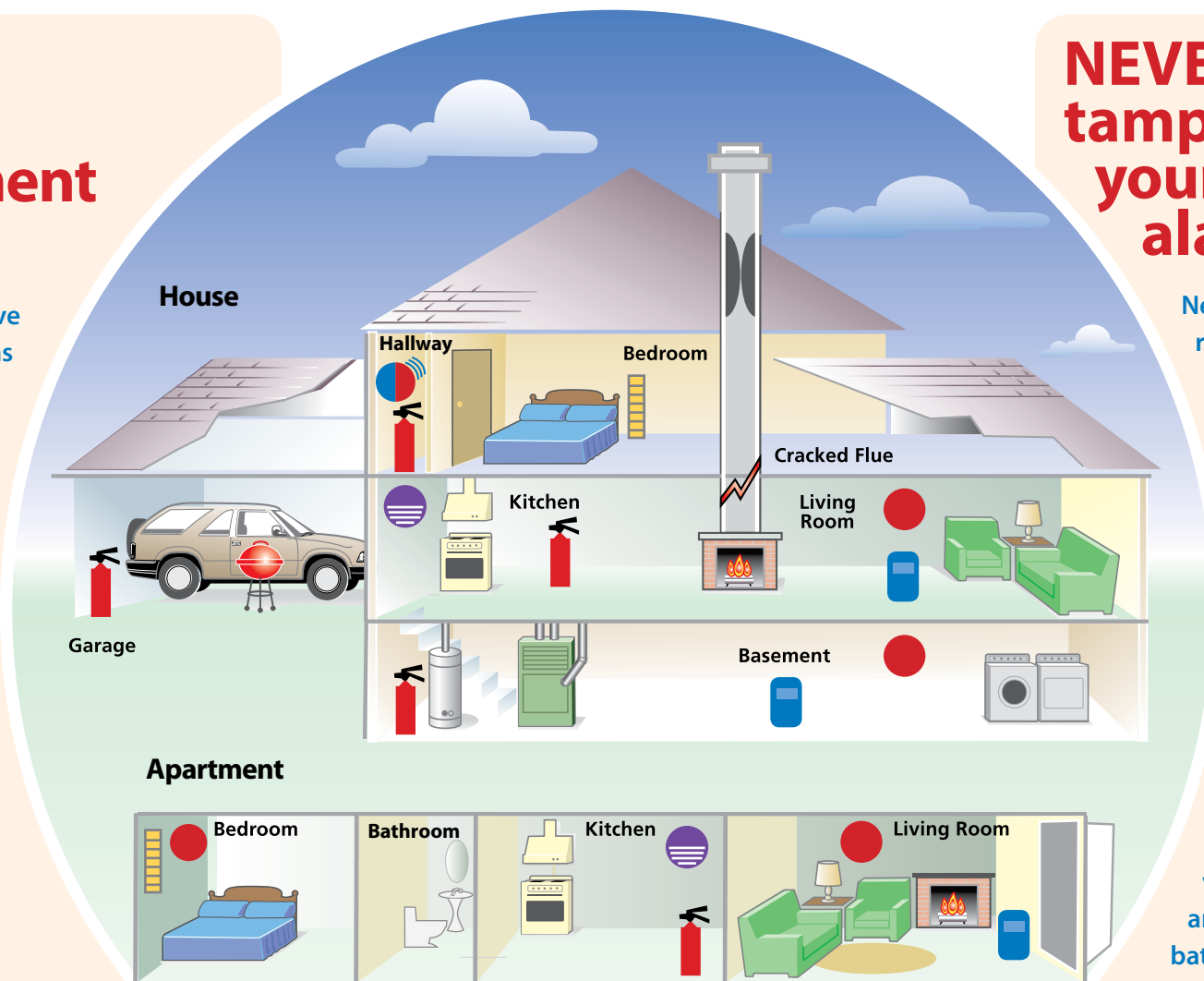
Escape is always your first priority. But for small and contained fires, having an approved fire extinguisher within reach may allow you to put out flare-ups before they spread. Good choice for garage, kitchen and each level of your home...cars and boats too.

Fire services strongly recommend that both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms be installed to help ensure maximum detection of the various types of fires that can occur within the home.

10/7 Replacement Rule

Many Canadians believe that their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms last forever. THEY DO NOT.

Check the age of every alarm in your home...right now. If smoke alarms are over 10 years old, or carbon monoxide alarms are over 5-7 years old - replace them immediately!



NEVER tamper with your smoke alarms

Never take down alarms or remove batteries to silence false alarms! Only install smoke alarms that have a "Hush" button... simply push to stay safe while you clear the air.

Tenants/Landlords

Laws vary but generally landlords must provide working smoke alarms and tenants must keep batteries fresh. Best solution? Install alarms with a sealed 10-year battery!

Smoke Alarms



Experts say that smoke alarms double your chances of escaping a fire. Early warning is the key! Always purchase the best technology you can afford, and never buy smoke alarms that do not have a "Hush" button. Removing alarms when you have a false alarm is a deadly practise. Just push a "Hush" button instead and stay safe while you clear the air.



Look for the cUL / ULC mark. This guarantees that the smoke alarm meets all the latest and required Canadian safety standards.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Carbon monoxide is called the "silent killer" because humans cannot detect it. You need a CO alarm if you have a gas furnace or any other fossil-fuel burning appliance or a gas or wood fireplace. Early symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, nausea and fatigue. These are often mistaken for the flu and ignored. Prolonged exposure causes confusion and can lead to brain damage and death. Consider alarms with a digital display so you can see any changes in air quality before major problems arise!



Look for the CSA and Blueflame 6.19-01 marks. These guarantee that the CO alarm meets all the latest and required Canadian safety standards.



CSA-6.19-01