

Simplified Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms Rules and Recommendations for Aspen Creek

The new Mammoth Fire Department rules are a result of the new California law requiring Carbon Monoxide Alarms in all condos. The following rules will go into effect for Aspen Creek on January 1, 2013. (Single family units went into effect on July 1, 2011.) **I just upgraded our condo unit (see below) and I would recommend that all condo units upgrade as soon as possible.**

All Smoke Alarms must be no more than 10 years old (the original Aspen Creek Smoke Alarms are no longer approved as well as some others currently in use), so check your dates.

Mammoth Fire Department Rules:

- 1 Smoke Alarm in each bedroom 4" to 12" from the ceiling – (suggested photoelectric)
 - The 4" to 12" from the intersection can be on the ceiling or the vertical wall.
- 1 Smoke Alarm on each floor 4" to 12" from the ceiling - (suggested Ionization)
 - Not within 20' of the kitchen
- 1 Carbon Monoxide Alarm on each floor in or leading into each bedroom
- 1 Carbon Monoxide Alarm within 20' from the fireplace
- 1 Fire Extinguisher in each condo (currently dated)

(Any brand of alarms can be used, but must be CALIFORNIA FIRE MARSHALL APPROVED (displays the emblem).

Mammoth Fire Department Suggestions:

- Photoelectric Smoke Alarms are suggested for the bedrooms.
- Ionization Smoke Alarms are suggested for outside of the bedrooms.
 - Not within 20' of the kitchen
- Carbon Monoxide Alarms should not be located on high ceilings.
 - Check the manufactures recommendations.
 - The "plug in" type can be used if approved.
 - If the "Original" 110v locations are not high enough for smoke alarms, they may work for the CO alarms.
- Combination Photoelectric / Ionization Smoke Alarms are not recommended.
- Combination Photoelectric / Carbon Monoxide Alarms OK, if they meet the other location requirements.
- The "Original" 110v smoke alarm locations can be used for a 110v Smoke or Carbon Monoxide Alarms.
 - If your "original" 110v is connected to the entire condo complex alarm system call an electrician.

If you have an unusual situation or have further questions, please call the Mammoth Fire Department at (760) 934-2300.

The following is what I did in our condo to upgrade to the new rules and suggestions.

AI Lansdon (Unit 228)

Our condo is a 3 bedroom with a loft with high ceilings. When built, our unit had two 110v smoke alarms. The upstairs alarm was original and located just above the doorway leading into the bedroom, which is not on the ceiling and does not comply with the Smoke Alarm rules. I replaced it with a BRK Brands **CO5120BN** Hardwire Carbon Monoxide Alarm with Battery Backup. This is a 110v with battery operated and will qualify as the second floor CO alarm.

The first floor original alarm had been replaced, but it looked as if it was more than 10 years old. The location was on the hallway ceiling leading into the two lower bedrooms. I replaced it with a First Alert **SC9120B** Hardwire Combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarm with Battery Backup. This is 110v with battery operated and will qualify as both the ionization smoke alarm and CO detector. Because it was also within 20' from the fireplace it qualified for both CO requirements.

In the three bedrooms I put First Alert **SA720CN** Smoke Alarm Photoelectric Sensor with Escape Light. This is a battery operated and should be placed above the door just over 4" to 12" from the intersection of the ceiling and the vertical wall. (It can be on the ceiling or the vertical wall).

This left me with the second floor vaulted ceiling needing a smoke alarm. I placed a First Alert **SSA340CN** Ionization Smoke & Fire Alarm with Battery Backup near the apex of the ceiling and the vertical wall intersection. This unit says it has a lifetime battery (I hope it does).

6 Alarms were required to follow all the rules and Suggestions.