



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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**Board of Fire Prevention Regulations Sets Requirements for
Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) Chairman David Demers today announced that on February 2 the board passed emergency regulations on carbon monoxide alarms. The Legislature directed the BFPR to draft the regulations as part of the recently enacted “Nicole’s law” that requires carbon monoxide alarms in all residences with potential sources of carbon monoxide.

Coan said, “These regulations bring us another step closer to full implementation of this law. The Department of Fire Services will be working with a consortium of fire, health, housing and other groups to educate fire officials and the public on the effective implementation of these regulations.”

Chief Steven P. Edwards, president of the Mass. Fire Chiefs’ Association said, “The Commonwealth’s fire service applauds this legislation. Last winter, we responded to many serious carbon monoxide incidents and poisonings and have seen the effects of this silent killer first hand.”

Compliance

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, “Each year we see the devastating effects of carbon monoxide poisoning. Many of these incidents are avoidable with early detection and warning as provided through this new law.”

All affected residences must install approved carbon monoxide alarms by March 31, 2006, although, where hard-wired systems are required, the deadline is January 1, 2007. Coan added, “Consumers should work with their local fire departments to educate themselves carefully, because not every CO alarm on the shelf at the local hardware store will bring your home into compliance with these regulations.”

Fire departments are currently required to inspect smoke alarms when homes are being sold and transferred. Starting March 31, 2006 (or January 1, 2007 where hard-wired alarms are

required) fire departments will now inspect all residences upon sale and transfer for carbon monoxide alarms.

Consumer Information

The Department of Fire Services is distributing *A Consumer's Guide to Requirements for Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarms*. This guide and information about the regulations can be obtained from local fire departments and on the DFS website at http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/pubed/firesafetytopics/carbon_monoxide_safety.htm.

Additional Regulations

Fire Marshal Coan indicated that the board is continuing to develop additional CO alarm requirements for certain transient residential buildings such as hotels and motels, in addition to requirements for certain institutional buildings. It is anticipated that the regulations for these types of buildings will be promulgated in the very near future in order to meet the statutes' January 1, 2007 deadline.