



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 16, 2011**

**Contact:** DBI Technical Services, Tel. 415/558-6205, and/or Mindy Talmadge, SFFD, Tel. 415/558-3403

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors Save Lives;**  
***Most Homeowners Must Install Carbon Monoxide Detectors by July 1<sup>st</sup>***

The San Francisco's Mayor's Office, the Department of Building Inspection (DBI), and the San Francisco Fire Department, today announced a City-wide outreach drive to inform residents that effective July 1<sup>st</sup> a new State law requires owners to install immediately carbon monoxide detectors to safeguard residents' lives and safety.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate carbon monoxide (CO), which is an invisible, odorless and colorless gas created by the incomplete combustion of carbon fuels, kills 500 people a year and injures another 20,000 people nationwide. To prevent these accidental deaths and injuries, the California legislature enacted SB 183 – mandating residential property owners to install carbon monoxide detectors in existing dwelling units having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or attached garage.

"This is sensible life-saving, injury-prevention legislation," said Mayor Edwin M. Lee, "and a new public safety responsibility we want all homeowners to know about and to implement immediately. By acting quickly and installing these warning detectors, homeowners will protect their families and give them enough time to evacuate safely and to call 911 for emergency assistance when CO poisoning is present."

An information brochure about these important warning detectors will be posted on the DBI, Fire Department and Mayor's Office web sites. Visit [www.sfdbi.org](http://www.sfdbi.org), [www.sffd.org](http://www.sffd.org), and [www.sfgov.org/Mayor](http://www.sfgov.org/Mayor) to download.

**CO devices must be installed in all specified single-family dwellings by July 1, 2011. All other specified dwelling units must have CO devices installed by January 1, 2013.**

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) lists certified CO devices that meet the requirement specified within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010. Please visit the SFM's web site at [http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselistings\\_bml\\_searchcotest.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselistings_bml_searchcotest.php) and select Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors for a complete list of approved devices.

Other details of the law include:

- Owners shall install CO devices in a manner consistent with building standards applicable to new construction for the relevant type of occupancy if it is technically feasible. See the 2010 California Building Code, Section 420.4, and the 2010 California Residential Code, Section R315.
- CO devices shall produce a distinct audible alarm.
- Tenants must notify the responsible party if the CO device becomes inoperable or deficient.
- CO devices may be combined with a smoke detector, if the combination device meets all specified SFM listing and approval requirements.
- Per the California Building Standards Commission, a new device must be installed when the owner applies for a permit to alter, repair or make an addition to a dwelling unit whose cost valuation is one thousand or more dollars.
- A local enforcement agency shall provide the property owner a 30-day notice to correct, and provide (post online) Self-Certification affidavit forms homeowners are required to complete and submit.

- Local jurisdictions are authorized to adopt ordinances requiring CO devices if the ordinance is consistent with the requirement of this bill.
- Violation of Health & Safety Code Section 17926 is an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of two-hundred dollars for each offense, plus applicable enforcement agency penalties.

#### Required Installation Locations Within the Dwelling Unit

Residential buildings shall have CO alarms installed:

- Outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedroom(s)
- On every level of the dwelling unit, including basements

Hotels and motels shall have CO alarms installed:

- On the ceiling of sleeping units with permanently installed fuel-burning appliances

#### **Allowable Types of CO Alarms, Required Power Source, Installation Protocol and Agency Approval**

- CO alarms that are solely **battery powered** are acceptable for installation in existing buildings where the wall coverings are not removed for construction purposes.
- For new construction, CO alarms **must be powered by the building's wiring system**, i.e. be "hard-wired," be **interconnected**, and **have battery back-up**.

**CO Alarms installed in California are required to be approved by the California State Fire Marshal (SFM).**

Some CO alarms are wall-mounted and some are ceiling-mounted. **Please follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.**

**Combination CO/Smoke Alarms are available and may be used as long as they are SFM approved.**

CO alarms have a limited lifespan (varies by alarm), and must be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. **Homeowners should maintain the records** of the date they installed the alarm, as well as retain a copy of the manufacturer's instructions.

Like smoke alarms, CO alarms should be tested in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. **Batteries should be replaced at least annually.**

For a full list of this new legislation's stipulations please review the Department of Housing and Community Development's Information Bulletin 2011-01 at <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/infobulls/IB2011-01.pdf>.

Related Brochure: [Carbon Monoxide Devices Save Lives](#)

See a [Video Presentation on YouTube](#)

[\*\*AFFIDAVIT – SELF CERTIFICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CARBON MONOXIDE AND SMOKE ALARMS \(Draft\)\*\*](#)

