



# CITY OF AMARILLO

## Department of Building Safety

To: Department of Building Safety Customers

Subject : Informational Bulletin about Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Date: October 4, 2017



The Department of Building Safety has developed this Informational Bulletin to describe and clarify the requirements for carbon monoxide alarms.

The 2015 International Residential Code *as amended* states in part:

**R315.1 Carbon monoxide alarms.** For new construction, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms in dwelling units within which fuel-fired appliances are installed and in dwelling units that have attached garages. Approved alarms shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions or located on the wall at a height 42 to 90 inches above floor, avoiding locations near heating/cooling vents or areas which provide turbulent airflow, and minimum 36 inches away from openings to areas of high humidity. Avoid installing CO alarms in kitchens or above fuel-burning appliances.



**R315.3 Where required in existing dwellings.** Where work requiring a permit occurs in existing dwellings that have attached garages or in existing dwellings within which fuel-fired appliances exist, carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided in accordance with Section R315.1.

It is important to clarify the statement "Where work requiring a permit occurs in existing dwellings..." This section is not specific to a particular trade or permit type. The section requires any project which requires a permit to comply, i.e. building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing. The purpose is to enhance safety for the occupants of dwellings utilizing fuel-fired equipment or which have an attached garage.

The intent of this section is for ANY permitted work. The Department's position shall be consistent with the 2015 IRC with a few specific exceptions as listed below:

- Water service line with all work occurring on the exterior of the structure
- Irrigation system installation or repair
- Sewer line with all work occurring on the exterior of the structure
- Exterior siding work (does not exempt roofing or window installations)
- Detached accessory structures, including exterior swimming pools
- Exterior flatwork, driveways, retaining walls, fencing, and similar
- Xcel Energy Super Saver installations



For all other projects where a permit is required, the permit holder will be responsible to comply with Section 315.1 or 315.3 as applicable.

For more information, contact the Department of Building Safety – 806 378-3041.