



FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL
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TO ALL BUILDING OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The Florida Fire Prevention Code and Florida Statute 633 do not recognize the existence of battery-operated smoke detectors in most existing occupancies, as previous statutes allowed. Smoke alarms must receive their operating power from the building's electrical system; they must not rely solely on battery power.

This requirement is based on the experience that battery-operated detectors do not provide the reliability with respect to uninterrupted power supply that building electrical system power provides. Batteries are often removed to avoid nuisance alarms caused by kitchen or bathroom vapors or for use in other devices, such as radios and electronic toys; dead batteries are often not replaced.

The smoke alarms installed in your occupancy should now be powered by the 120-volt AC power from the building electrical system. If for some reason they are not, the smoke alarms in your facility must be replaced with smoke alarms powered by the house electrical system.

Whether you currently have battery-operated smoke alarms and are in the process of replacing them with hard-wired smoke alarms or if you currently have smoke alarms powered by the house electrical system, it is necessary for the safety of the building occupants that all smoke alarms are provided with a regular testing, inspection, and maintenance program.

The smoke alarms shall be maintained and tested in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions as required in National Fire Protection Association Standard 72.

Please evaluate the smoke alarm(s) in your facility and make sure that it is replaced and tested in accordance with the manufacturers' and National Fire Protection Association's recommendations.

Commonly, industry standards state each smoke alarm should be replaced every ten (10) years, the audible device tested monthly by pushing the "test button," and a "functional test" be conducted annually by the introduction of "canned smoke" approved by the manufacturer.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Kucik", on a light-colored background.

Daniel K. Kucik, Assistant Chief / Chief Fire Marshal
Orange County Fire Rescue Department

