



PELHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT
P. O. Box 321
Pelham, NH 03076

James F. Midgley, Fire Chief

RESIDENTIAL SMOKE DETECTOR RULES

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE CODE

NFPA 72-2

Household Fire Warning Equipment

SAF-C 6008

Effective Date. Owners of structures who are required under RSA 153:10-a to install and maintain automatic fire warning devices shall ensure that the necessary action is taken effecting compliance by July 1, 1984.

Installation and Maintenance

(a) Automatic fire warning devices shall be installed and maintained in accordance with codes adopted by the State Fire Marshal including:

- (1) NFPA 101, Life Safety Code
- (2) NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code (1997 Edition).

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SMOKE DETECTOR LAW

All dwellings within the Town of Pelham, regardless of occupancy classification shall have smoke detectors installed in accordance with New Hampshire Smoke Detector Law RSA 153:10-a.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Multi-unit dwelling, for purposes of the state law is any building containing two or more dwelling units.
2. All smoke detectors installed in multi-unit dwellings after July 1, 1984, must

be powered by the building electrical service and have a secondary (battery) power source.

3. Rental unit is defined as any residential unit in a building or single family dwelling which provides permanent or transient living facilities for one or more persons, which is occupied by tenants on a rental basis. This term shall include but is not limited to apartments, duplex units, hotel, motel, rooms rented out of the home of another, rooming houses, and single family dwellings, so long as they are rented.
4. All rental units in a multi-family dwelling shall have a smoke detector adjacent to all sleeping areas, and at least one smoke detector on each level of the rental unit, including basements. Crawl spaces and attics without stairs or a ladder, do not require detectors.
5. Every common corridor and stairway in any multi-family dwelling unit must be properly protected with smoke detectors. Detectors installed after July 1, 1984 must be powered by building electrical current with battery backup power and be interconnected.
6. Single Family Dwelling means any structure containing one dwelling unit designed for living purposes, and which is used by one, two, or more families exclusively as a home.
7. Single family dwelling shall be equipped with smoke detectors outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms and on each story of the family unit including basements and excluding crawl spaces and unfinished attics without stairs or a ladder. In new construction, a smoke detector also shall be installed in each sleeping room.

Single family dwellings built or substantially rehabilitated after 1/1/82 shall have smoke detectors powered by house electrical current with battery backup and will be interconnected so that activation of any one detector will sound all other detectors simultaneously. Battery detectors are allowed (but discouraged) if installed prior to 1/1/82.