

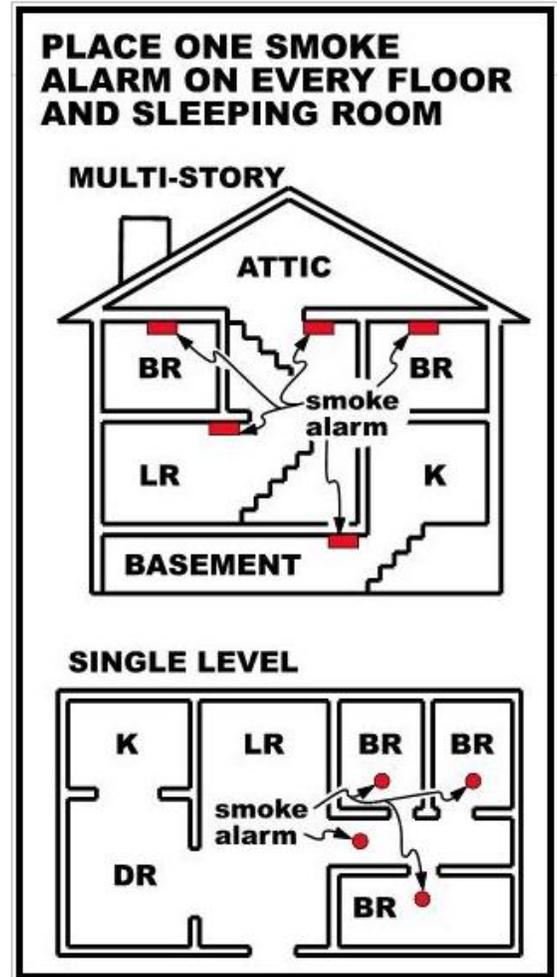


# **SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS** **IN THE CITY OF GAITHERSBURG**



**UPDATED TO REFLECT NEW STATE OF MARYLAND REQUIREMENTS**

- Smoke alarms must be installed on each level of the dwelling. On floors with sleeping areas, the smoke alarm must be placed outside the sleeping area. Additionally, every room or area used for sleeping must have a smoke alarm within the room or area. **NOTE: This applies to ALL dwellings, new or existing, including apartments and condominium units.**
- All smoke alarms that are powered by the building electric service (AC), or were required to be powered by the building electric service at the time the home was constructed, must be hard-wired (AC) type with battery back-up. (Installing a battery operated unit beside of, or in place of the A/C unit is *not* acceptable.)
- Smoke alarms installed to meet the above requirements, and installed in locations that did not require hard-wired (AC) smoke alarms at the time the home was constructed, must be a 10-year sealed battery smoke alarm. **Per the new Maryland State Law, effective January 1, 2018, all battery-only smoke alarms must be the sealed long-life (10-year) type with a silence/hush feature.**
- Smoke alarms must be replaced when they fail operability tests, but shall not remain installed more than ten years from the date of manufacture (*not* the date of installation). **Any smoke alarm over 10 years old must be replaced.**



#### Installation Tips:

- Wall-mounted smoke alarms must be mounted with the top of the detector no more than 12 inches down from the ceiling.
- Smoke alarms must not be located within 3 feet of: a door to a bathroom containing a shower; supply registers of forced air heating/cooling systems; or ceiling fans (measured to the tip of the blade path).
- Smoke alarms must be located at least 20 feet away from any cooking appliance.
- For rooms with sloped or tray ceilings, smoke alarms should be located on the ceiling at the highest point of the ceiling.

For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) or [www.usa.fema.gov](http://www.usa.fema.gov)

For questions, contact any of the City Fire Marshal's staff by email at [FireMarshal@gaitHERSBURGMD.GOV](mailto:FireMarshal@gaitHERSBURGMD.GOV) or by phone at 301-258-6330.