



WASHINGTON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

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Building
Electrical
Plumbing
Mechanical

MEMO

Subject: Smoke Detectors (Alterations, repairs, and additions Section 313.1.1)

To provide further clarification and to ensure consistent enforcement, the following interpretation of Section 313.1.1 of the 2003 IRC will apply.

In order to trigger an upgrade to interconnected hard-wired smoke detectors throughout an existing dwelling the following conditions must be present:

1. Habitable additions, interior alterations, or repairs must require a building and electrical permit;
AND
2. Habitable additions, interior alterations, or repairs must result in the removal of drywall or ceiling finish exposing the structure in areas adjacent to sleeping rooms, or interior partitioning;
OR
3. Addition adds a sleeping room.

Exterior alterations or repairs do not apply.

Exceptions:

1. Smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required to be interconnected and hard wired where the alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space, or basement available which could provide access for hard wiring and interconnection without the removal of interior finishes
2. Repairs to the exterior surfaces of dwellings are exempt from these requirements.

Installation of a solid fuel appliance requires a mechanical permit and compliance with section 313.1.1.

February 7, 2006