



Village of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois

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# ALERT

From the Fire Department

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## New Law Requires Carbon Monoxide Detectors in Every Home

The State of Illinois has joined a growing majority of states in adopting a statute which recognizes the dangers of carbon monoxide to life and health. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that has the capacity to cause brain damage or death in persons exposed to high concentrations of it. Carbon monoxide is a byproduct of combustion of natural gas and gasoline, making the potential for dangerous concentrations of this gas in our homes very real possibilities.

The purpose of this new law, which went into effect on January 1, 2007, is to provide citizens with improved early warning protection against deadly concentrations of carbon monoxide by requiring a carbon monoxide detector/alarm in every home. This will save lives and protect health. It is the responsibility of the owner of a structure to supply and install all required alarms. It is the tenant's responsibility to test and provide general maintenance for the alarms, including battery replacement.

For further information, and details on where to place your carbon monoxide detector/alarm, please call the Winthrop Harbor Fire Department at 847-872-5957.

**DIAL 911 FOR ANY EMERGENCY**

Village of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois

830 Sheridan Road—Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096—Phone: 847-872-3846

[www.winthropharbor.com](http://www.winthropharbor.com)

**PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**(430 ILCS 135/) Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act.**

(430 ILCS 135/1)

Sec. 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act.  
(Source: P.A. 94-741, eff. 1-1-07.)

(430 ILCS 135/5)

Sec. 5. Definitions. In this Act:

"Approved carbon monoxide alarm" or "alarm" means a carbon monoxide alarm that complies with all the requirements of the rules and regulations of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, bears the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, and complies with the most recent standards of the Underwriters Laboratories or the Canadian Standard Association.

"Dwelling unit" means a room or suite of rooms used for human habitation, and includes a single family residence as well as each living unit of a multiple family residence and each living unit in a mixed use building.

(Source: P.A. 94-741, eff. 1-1-07.)

(430 ILCS 135/10)

Sec. 10. Carbon monoxide detector.

(a) Every dwelling unit shall be equipped with at least one approved carbon monoxide alarm in an operating condition within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes. The carbon monoxide alarm may be combined with smoke detecting devices provided that the combined unit complies with the respective provisions of the administrative code, reference standards, and departmental rules relating to both smoke detecting devices and carbon monoxide alarms and provided that the combined unit emits an alarm in a manner that clearly differentiates the hazard.

(b) Every structure that contains more than one dwelling unit shall contain at least one approved carbon monoxide alarm in operating condition within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes.

(c) It is the responsibility of the owner of a structure to supply and install all required alarms. It is the responsibility of a tenant to test and to provide general maintenance for the alarms within the tenant's dwelling unit or rooming unit, and to notify the owner or the authorized agent of the owner in writing of any deficiencies that the tenant cannot correct. The owner is responsible for providing one tenant per dwelling unit with written information regarding alarm testing and maintenance.

The tenant is responsible for replacement of any required batteries in the carbon monoxide alarms in the tenant's dwelling unit, except that the owner shall ensure that the batteries are in operating condition at the time the tenant takes possession of the dwelling unit. The tenant shall provide the owner or the authorized agent of the owner with access to the dwelling unit to correct any deficiencies in the carbon monoxide alarm that have been reported in writing to the owner or the authorized agent of the owner.

(d) The carbon monoxide alarms required under this Act may be either battery powered, plug-in with battery back-up, or wired into the structure's AC power line with secondary battery back-up.

(Source: P.A. 94-741, eff. 1-1-07.)

(430 ILCS 135/15)

Sec. 15. Violation.

(a) Willful failure to install or maintain in operating condition any carbon monoxide alarm required by this Act is a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) Tampering with, removing, destroying, disconnecting, or removing the batteries from any installed carbon monoxide alarm, except in the course of inspection, maintenance, or replacement of the alarm, is a Class A misdemeanor in the case of a first conviction and a Class 4 felony in the case of a second or subsequent conviction.

(Source: P.A. 94-741, eff. 1-1-07.)

(430 ILCS 135/20)

Sec. 20. Exemptions. The following residential units shall not require carbon monoxide detectors:

(1) A residential unit in a building that: (i) does not rely on combustion of fossil fuel for heat, ventilation, or hot water; (ii) is not connected in any way to a garage; and (iii) is not sufficiently close to any ventilated source of carbon monoxide, as determined by the local building commissioner, to receive carbon monoxide from that source.

(2) A residential unit that is not sufficiently close to any source of carbon monoxide so as to be at risk of receiving carbon monoxide from that source, as determined by the local building commissioner.

(Source: P.A. 94-741, eff. 1-1-07.)