

## **Gloucester Township Fire District 4**

### **Instructions for Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detector/Portable Fire Extinguisher Inspections**

#### **Why must I have an Inspection before selling my home?**

1. To ensure the smoke detectors installed when your home was originally built are in place and properly operating. Or,
2. To provide a minimum of battery operated smoke detectors in homes built before smoke detectors were required.
3. Because over 80% of fire fatalities are caused by Smoke Inhalation and **working smoke detectors save lives.**
4. To ensure that Carbon Monoxide Detectors are properly installed and working.
5. To ensure that a portable Fire Extinguisher is installed within 10 feet of the kitchen.
6. It is the law in New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-198.2)

#### **What does the Inspection Involve?**

A uniformed member of your local Bureau of Fire Prevention will visit your home at a scheduled time and spray a special chemical into your smoke detector(s) or depress the test button on carbon monoxide detector(s) and ensure that all the required detector(s) and the portable fire extinguisher are installed correctly and working properly. If everything works, **you will be given a certificate** to bring with you to Settlement.

#### **What must I do to prepare for the Inspection?**

1. Complete an Application for Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Certification.
2. File an application and pay the required fee at the Blackwood Fire Station located at 14 West Central Avenue in downtown Blackwood. After receiving the application, a representative of the Bureau of Fire Prevention will schedule an appointment with the contact person indicated on the certification application.
3. Test all your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors by pressing and holding the test buttons until the device activates.
4. Replace the batteries, as needed.
5. Clean the detectors by vacuuming with a strong vacuum or blowing them out with compressed air.
6. Make sure that the detectors are properly located and mounted securely. Detectors should not be closer than five feet to a ceiling fan, and ceiling mounting is preferred. Refer to the literature provided with the equipment, or the attached map for further instructions.
7. If your home has 110 volt AC detectors that are part of an interconnected system, **all the detectors must activate when any *one* is tested!** Should a fire break out in your basement, the detector in your room will sound to alert you. If ALL your interconnected detectors are not sounding, you should hire a qualified, licensed Electrician to make repairs. **Placing a single-station battery Detector in place of the 110 volt detector will result in Failure, possibly delaying settlement.**
8. Install additional Detectors where missing (Refer to attached map).
9. Install a portable, Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical (ABC) Fire Extinguisher within ten feet of the Kitchen. (Refer to the attached guideline regarding requirements for portable fire extinguishers).

### **Where are Smoke Detectors Required?**

Depending upon when your house was built, a minimum of one on every level (typically basement, near steps to second floor, and in corridor near bedroom within ten feet of sleeping rooms. (See attached map for more information.)

#### **Smoke Detectors are required:**

- At the base of basement steps, (on the ceiling) nearest the steps.
- At the base of the stairs (on the ceiling) nearest steps to a second floor or level.
- At the top of steps to an attic **served by fixed steps**.
- Do not place detectors on the sloped ceiling of a stairwell.

#### **Smoke Detectors are NOT required in:**

- Attics accessible by hatches, scuttles, pull-down steps or ladders.
- Crawl spaces without fixed permanent steps

### **Where are Carbon Monoxide Detectors Required?**

In the immediate area of sleeping room(s) of your home. The detectors may be battery operated, 110 volt plug-in or 110 volt hard wired. You may install a combination smoke/carbon monoxide detector which contains both sensor inside one unit, if you wish. Homes with **any fuel burning appliance or attached garages** require carbon monoxide detectors.

#### ***Carbon Monoxide Detectors are required:***

- In the area of the sleeping room(s) of all dwellings with attached garages and a fuel burning appliance or fireplace.
- Most homes will require one detector if all the sleeping rooms are in one area.
- If all sleeping rooms are not in one area, more that one detector may be needed.

### **Where are Portable Fire Extinguishers required?**

- Within TEN FEET of all kitchens. (Refer to the attached guideline regarding requirements for portable fire extinguishers).

### **I have a portable Fire Extinguisher but it is over one year old, what should I do?**

Have the unit inspected and tagged by a NJ certified Fire Equipment Contractor or:  
Purchase and install a new extinguisher. (Keep your receipt and attach to fire extinguisher).

### **What size and type Fire Extinguisher do I need?**

The law requires that a portable fire extinguisher shall be no smaller than 2A:10B:C and weigh no more than ten (10) pounds.

### **Where can I purchase a portable Fire Extinguisher?**

At any Home Center, Hardware Store, most large department stores, and at a Fire Equipment vendor listed in the yellow pages.

### **Where do I install the Fire Extinguisher?**

On a wall, in an accessible and conspicuous location, within ten feet of the kitchen. You must use the bracket or mount included with the extinguisher. The extinguisher should be no less than 6 inches off the floor, no higher than 5 feet to the top of the unit.

### **What do I do if my Extinguisher is old or no longer charged?**

Purchase and install a new extinguisher, (Keep your receipt and attach to fire extinguisher). **or**;

Take the extinguisher to a NJ Certified Fire Equipment Contractor and have your extinguisher inspected and serviced. An inspection tag will be placed on your unit indicating it is serviceable and working.

### **My Home is 100% Electric, with no Attached Garage, and no Fireplace. Do I need a Carbon Monoxide Detector?**

Since carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion, and you do **not** have a fuel burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage, you are exempt from the carbon monoxide requirement. Only smoke detectors would be required.

### **My home has a Security Alarm System. Will this be tested?**

No. If you installed a home security system, the alarm installer or contractor will have to certify your system. Only the equipment required by the NJ Uniform Construction Code at time of construction will be tested and certified. After certifying your system, the alarm installer or contractor must forward a full and complete copy of the certification report to the Bureau of Fire Prevention.

### **What can I do to keep my detectors working?**

1. Change your batteries twice a year. When you change the clocks, change the batteries.
2. Keep your detectors clean. Vacuum them out with a strong vacuum, or blow them out with compressed air. (Canned air used for computers works well)
3. Replace the detectors **when they are ten years old**. It has been recently learned that smoke detectors have a life expectancy of ten years, and should be replaced afterwards.
4. Locate detectors away from nuisance sources. Detectors should not be placed in kitchens or bathrooms, near furnaces or fireplaces or dusty places.
5. **TEST YOUR DETECTORS MONTHLY!** Replace defective detectors immediately!

**Fees** Checks in the amount \$25.00 must be payable to:  
**“Gloucester Township Fire District #4”**

### **Appointments**

Appointments are made within a two hour period of time. This is necessary due to the fact that Bureau of Fire Prevention personnel are uniformed firefighters who must also respond to fire and emergency calls.

**Failures**

Make necessary repairs as directed by the Fire Marshal and call to set up a reinspection. A reinspection will be made after the repairs are completed.

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR DETECTORS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHER *BEFORE* YOU SCHEDULE AN INSPECTION TO AVOID A DELAYED SETTLEMENT!!**

**Questions?**

Call the local Fire Marshal for any further information you may need.

**Listing of Gloucester Township Fire Marshals:**

District:	Fire Marshal	Phone:	Fax:
Fire District 1, Glendora	Harry Woods	856-939-1177	856-939-1194
Fire District 2, Chews Landing	Ken Young	856-939-2090	856-228-9007
Fire District 3, Blenheim	Ken Young	856-939-2090	856-228-9007
Fire District 4, Blackwood	Keith Kemery	856-227-7731	856-227-2494
Fire District 5, Lambs Terrace	Joe Rodano	856-227-5344	856-374-0424
Fire District 6, Erial	Mike Brezee	856-435-0700	856-435-4274