MARYLAND’S UPDATED SMOKE ALARM LAW
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

where
In Maryland, legislation was signed in 2013 with a phased-in implementation period for those affected to provide sufficient time to comply with the new law.

when
This new law goes into effect on January 1, 2018.

what
The law requires the replacement of battery-only operated smoke alarms with 10-year, long-life battery smoke alarms with a silence/hush button feature.

why
The Smoke Alarm Law creates a transition away from 9-volt battery-only smoke alarms in an effort to achieve more reliable smoke alarm coverage in older dwellings.

who
Smoke alarms that are battery-operated and presently exist by code or in locations where there are no smoke alarms present. It is never acceptable to remove required hard-wired smoke alarms and replace them with any type of battery-only smoke alarm.

also
Maryland’s Smoke Alarm Law also requires the replacement of ALL smoke alarms – hard-wired and battery-operated – after 10 years from the manufacturer’s date on the back of the alarm. If the date cannot be found, the alarm is most likely outdated and needs to be replaced.

EXISTING HOMES
Smoke alarm requirements vary based on when the home was built. Specific statutory and code requirements can be found on our website at www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe or by calling 311.

HOMES BUILT BEFORE JULY 1, 1975
Battery-operated smoke alarms must be replaced or upgraded with 10-year, long-life sealed smoke alarms.

NEW CONSTRUCTION
New construction in Maryland has been updated and corresponds with the International Residential Code and NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. An AC powered, battery back-up smoke alarm is required in every bedroom, in the common area outside of bedrooms and on every level of the home. ALL required smoke alarms must be interconnected.

HOMES BUILT BETWEEN JULY 1, 1975 AND JUNE 30, 1990
Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years of service and be AC powered with a battery back-up.

HOMES BUILT AFTER JANUARY 1, 1989
Homes are required to have at least one hard-wired, AC powered smoke alarm on every level, including the basement. Units must be interconnected so the activation of one will activate them all.

Maryland’s Smoke Alarm Law is part of the Public Safety Article, Sections 9-101 through 9-109.

Call 311 for a FREE Home Safety Check

SCOTT E. GOLDSTEIN
Montgomery County Fire Chief
www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe