



# **LONG VIEW**

## **Fire Department**

2404 1st Ave SW Long View, NC 28602



## **DETECTORS**



Not so long ago, smoke detectors were seen as "a good idea". Today, it's the law. North Carolina building codes now require all newly constructed homes to be equipped with smoke detectors. These devices must have an AC power supply as well as a DC power backup (usually a 9 volt battery). Homes that were built before the building codes were updated should be fitted with detectors. Remember, even if your smoke detector is AC powered, you must still periodically change the back-up battery. We recommend you change your detector battery at least once every six months. Most detectors also have a "low battery" alarm but don't rely on it to remind you. Changing your batteries when changing from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time may help you remember. To ensure your detector will operate when it's supposed to, you should test it once each week.



There are numerous detectors on the market today. Some are of the photoelectric type while others use ionization to detect the presence of smoke. Ionization types are probably more common but both are acceptable. There were some articles that appeared several years ago that questioned the safety of ionization detectors as they contain radioactive particles. These detectors have been found to be totally safe and the amount of radiation they emit is less than the amount that comes from your basic home television or computer screen.

Carbon monoxide detectors have grown in popularity within recent years. In fact, some smoke detectors now have a built in carbon monoxide detector. We often receive questions like, "Do I really need a carbon monoxide detector?" Carbon monoxide is an odorless toxic gas which is released during the combustion process. If something is burning, it is releasing carbon monoxide. If you have any one or more of the following in your home, you should have a CO detector:

1. LP or Natural Gas Appliances (ranges, hot water heaters, home heating systems, clothes dryers, etc)
2. Wood burning stoves or furnaces
3. An attached garage

*Follow the manufacturer's instructions for mounting your detectors. If you have questions, feel free to call us for assistance.*