



Fire Prevention Bureau



Permitting & Inspections
Department

Fuel Gas Detectors Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where are fuel gas detectors required?**

Please consult the attached guidance from the State Fire Marshal's Office. Detectors are required to be installed in all new and existing occupancies listed on the State's information sheet by January 1, 2022. The fuel gas detector installation requirement for existing Business, Mercantile and Assembly occupancies that were operation prior to January 1, 2022 have until January 1 2026 to meet the requirements of this law.

- **Is the City of Portland / Portland Fire Department issuing penalties for properties not in compliance as of January 1, 2022?**

In short, No. In light of the short notice of the legislation being enacted, as well as the extremely limited inventory of the required detectors, we are still in the education and outreach process regarding the requirements.

- **What brand of detector should I purchase? Where should we purchase?**

We are unable to recommend any particular brand or purchase location. Any device you purchase is required to be approved or listed by a nationally recognized independent testing laboratory (Underwriters Laboratory, Factory Mutual etc)

- **Where should my detectors be located?**

Per the fire marshal's fact sheet, detectors should be installed in each space containing a gas fired appliance - furnace/water heater, space heater, range, clothes dryer, fireplace etc. Devices should be mounted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions with regard to mounting height, required distance from the gas fired appliance, etc.

- **Do my detectors need to be hardwired?**

No, they do not. The legislation allows for detectors to be hardwired, plug-in type, or battery powered. The type of device you choose will also depend on the fuel being used - for example, a detector for propane fueled devices needs to be mounted lower as propane is heavier than air and settles, whereas a detector for an LNG device would be mounted higher as natural gas is lighter than air and you may not have electrical outlets at the required height.

- **Are these detectors the same as my current Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm?**

They are not. Some manufacturers do offer combination CO and fuel gas detectors - these alarms are acceptable provided that required smoke alarms are installed as well.

- **What if my tenant removes or disables alarms?**

The legislation requires that the tenant keep the alarms in working condition, test them regularly, and refrain from disabling them. Many landlords have opted to include acknowledgement forms in their leases stating the type and number of alarm and detection devices in place at the time of lease signing.