

**EXPRESS TERMS  
FOR  
PROPOSED EMERGENCY BUILDING STANDARDS  
OF THE  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
REGARDING THE 2010 CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE  
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 2.5  
SMOKE ALARM POWER SOURCE / INTERCONNECTION REQUIREMENTS  
FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS**

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The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) proposes to make necessary changes to the 2010 edition of the California Residential Code relating to smoke alarms and exemptions for alterations, repairs and exterior work.

**Legend for Express Terms:**

1. California amendments brought forward without modification: Not shown for clarity
  2. New California amendment: *California language appears underlined and in Italics.*
  3. Repealed text: Shown as ~~Strikeout~~.
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**[The SFM proposes to amend Chapter 3 with the following amendments and California regulations.]**

**CHAPTER 3  
BUILDING PLANNING**

**R314.4 Power source.** *Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring provided that such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Smoke alarms with integral strobes that are not equipped with battery backup shall be connected to an emergency electrical system. Smoke alarms shall emit a signal when the batteries are low. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection.*

**Exceptions:**

1. *Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing buildings where no construction is taking place.*
2. *Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in buildings that are not served from a commercial power source.*
3. *Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing areas of buildings undergoing alterations or repairs that do not result in the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for building wiring without the removal of interior finishes.*
4. *Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck, are exempt from the requirements of this section.*
5. *Installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems are exempt from the requirements of this section.*

**R314.5 Interconnection.** *Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling or sleeping unit, the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.*

**Exceptions:**

1. *Interconnection is not required in buildings that are not undergoing alterations, repairs or construction of any kind.*
2. *Smoke alarms in existing areas are not required to be interconnected where alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.*
3. *Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck, are exempt from the requirements of this section.*
4. *Installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems are exempt from the requirements of this section.*

**Notation:**

Authority:

Health and Safety Code Sections 13100.1, 13108, 13113.7, 13113.8, 13114, 13143, 17921(b), 18928(a), and 18949.2(b) and (c)

Reference:

Health and Safety Code Sections 13108, 13113.7, 13113.8, 13114, 17921(b) and 18949.2(b) and (c)