



**COUNTY OF NEVADA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AGENCY  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

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**NEVADA COUNTY  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT POLICY**

<b>Subject:</b>	Self-Certification of Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms	<b>Policy #:</b>	BD-BI-19-001
<b>Original Policy:</b>	March 8, 2019	<b>Last Revised:</b>	February 9, 2024

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**1. Purpose:**

The Nevada County Building Department has adopted the use of a self-certification affidavit for the placement of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in dwelling units. The purpose is to allow contractors and property owners to work together installing code compliant alarms in the proper locations without needing to be visually inspected by the Nevada County Building Inspector.

**2. Analysis:**

Over the recent years, the county has experienced an increase in permits not being “finalized” due to the inability to verify smoke and carbon monoxide alarm placement at the final inspection. This can be due to a multitude of reasons including but not limited to the inability to gain access to the residence, dogs/pets inside the home, and/or an adult is not available to allow access. The Building Department cannot finalize a project until verification has been completed. This has resulted in an increase in time for Department staff and has created unnecessary delays for the contractor waiting for a completed/finalized project to receive final payment.

**3. Policy:**

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Affidavit

- The property owner **or** the licensed contractor shall sign the affidavit.
- The contractor shall visually observe the alarms and locations per the requirements of the affidavit and the California Building and Residential Codes.
- The Contractor shall not accept verbal confirmation from the property owner for the placement or type of alarms installed.
- Misuse of the affidavit for its intended purpose will result in the following actions:
  1. The first offense will result in a warning and written notice placed in the permit and licensed contractors file
  2. The second offense will not allow the contractor to use the affidavit for a one year period from the date of the violation

3. With the third offense the licensed contractor will not be able to use the affidavit indefinitely

**Policy Interpretation:**

The Director of Building and/or approved building department designee shall have the authority for the interpretation of this policy.

Policy Initiated By: James Edwards, Supervising Building Inspector

Approved: 

Date: 2/8/24

George Schureck  
Director of Building