

NFPA 720

Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Warning Equipment in Dwelling Units

2005 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Warning Equipment
in Dwelling Units
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This edition of NFPA 720, *Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Warning Equipment in Dwelling Units*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Carbon Monoxide Detection and acted on by NFPA at its November Association Technical Meeting held November 13–17, 2004, in Miami Beach, FL. It was issued by the Standards Council on January 14, 2005, with an effective date of February 7, 2005, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 720 was approved as an American National Standard on February 7, 2005.

Origin and Development of NFPA 720

With the increased concern over carbon monoxide (CO) hazards in residential applications, the National Fire Protection Association was petitioned to develop a document covering the installation of CO detectors and related equipment. In late 1993, the Technical Committee on Household Fire Warning Equipment was tasked to develop a document covering the installation and use of CO detectors. This document was originally prepared by the Technical Committee on Household Fire Warning Equipment but was returned to committee at the 1995 Annual Meeting. The NFPA Standards Council later approved the formation of the Technical Committee on Carbon Monoxide and Fuel Gas Detectors to further develop this document.

The 2003 edition reflected editorial revisions to comply with the latest edition of the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. These revisions included the addition of three administrative chapters at the beginning of the document: “Administration,” “Referenced Publications,” and “Definitions.” Two technical chapters follow the administrative chapters: “General Provisions” from Chapter 1 (in part) of the 1998 edition and “Household Carbon Monoxide Warning Equipment” from Chapter 2 of the 1998 edition. Editorial revisions also included breaking out paragraphs with multiple requirements into individually numbered paragraphs, minimizing the use of exceptions, and using consistent headings for sections and subsections. Changes also were made in some sections to provide language and terminology that was more consistent and user-friendly.

The 2003 edition also contained technical revisions, including the recommendation that printed instructions for carbon monoxide alarms and detectors include minimum and recommended distances from fuel-burning appliances.

As communities have begun to recognize the life-safety benefit of carbon monoxide warning equipment, requirements by local jurisdictions for the installation of this equipment have become more common and the need for an installation standard written in enforceable language has become evident. The 2005 edition of this document reflects this need as it has been transformed from a recommended practice to a standard. In addition, terms such as “family living unit” and “household” have been replaced where appropriate with the term “dwelling unit” to provide language consistent with standard terminology used in NFPA codes and standards.

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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents addressing the selection, installation, operation, and maintenance of carbon monoxide warning equipment.

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