



# TAMPERING WITH SMOKE & CO DETECTORS

**CODE INFORMATION SHEET**  
**2012**

*Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms are one of the best safety features you can install to protect yourself, your family and your home.*

*In the event of a fire or CO emergency, an alarm can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are the single, most important means of preventing fatalities by providing an early warning signal – so you and your family can escape.*



Only a functioning alarm can protect you. Smoke & CO alarms need to be properly installed maintained and in a ready condition at all times. Never disable an alarm by "borrowing" its battery for another use.

Following the manufacturer's instructions, test all your smoke detectors monthly and install new batteries at least once a year.

If your alarm is "chirping" this is a low battery warning, replace the battery immediately. If your alarm has a lot of false alarms it may be best to relocate it. Follow the manufacturer's instructions

Clean your smoke detectors using a vacuum cleaner or caned air without removing the detector's cover.

Never paint a smoke detector.

## Requirements of the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Codes & Vermont Law

### Tampering with Fire Safety Equipment.

**No person shall render any portable or fixed fire-extinguishing system or device or any fire warning system inoperative or inaccessible. [ NFPA 1 -10.8.1 ]**

**Violation may result in an administrative penalty of \$1,000.00 for each violation of the code, which would be issued to the person committing the violation.**

[Title 21 Chapter 173 § 2734. Penalties]

### Use and maintenance of a dwelling unit

**(a) The tenant shall not create or contribute to the noncompliance of the dwelling unit with applicable provisions of building, housing and health regulations.**

[Title 9: Chapter 137: § 4456. Tenant obligations]

*This sheet is designed to provide information to enhance the public safety of all Vermonters. This code information sheet is not an all-inclusive list of state laws or additional code requirements that may apply. This educational resource sheet does not carry the force of legal opinion and was developed with information provided by the Vermont Division of Fire Safety, The U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). For additional information please visit [www.firesafety.vermont.gov](http://www.firesafety.vermont.gov)*