



New Fire Alarms Standard

Stakeholder Toolkit



Safer
Scotland
Scottish
Government

The campaign

Every home in Scotland is now required to have interlinked fire alarms. Alarms that talk to each other – so that when one goes off, they all go off – helping everyone to react quicker and save more lives.

The Scottish Government launched an awareness campaign in August 2021 informing the public about the change in the law and the importance of interlinked alarms.

It is not too late for homeowners to install interlinked alarms to ensure that their home complies with the new law.

This toolkit contains information that you can use and share, to help ensure that everyone who needs it has access to the right information and support suited to them.

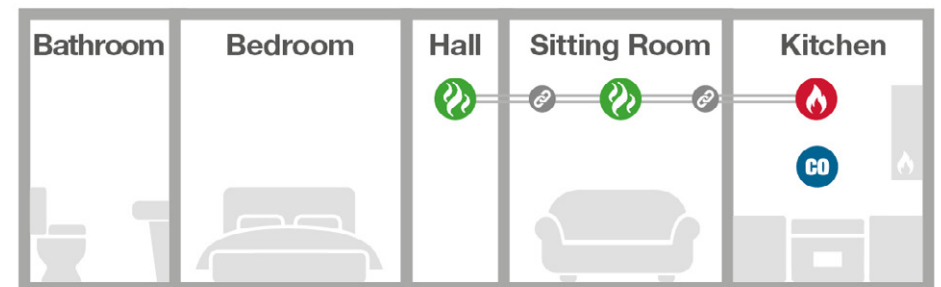






Overview

- ★ The law on fire alarms has changed. All homes in Scotland are now required to have interlinked fire alarms, meaning if one alarm goes off, they all go off. This will alert you to danger more quickly, no matter where you are in your home.
- ★ The new legislation, which came into force on 1 February 2022, requires all homes in Scotland to have:
 - ✓ One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes
 - ✓ One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
 - ✓ One heat alarm installed in the kitchen
 - ✓ All alarms should be ceiling mounted and interlinked

- ★ Where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance, such as a boiler, fire (including open fires) and heater, a carbon monoxide detector is also required. This does not need to be linked to the fire alarms.
- ★ If you live in a one bedroom flat, you will need two smoke alarms and one heat alarm. If you have a carbon fuelled appliance like a boiler, you will also need a carbon monoxide detector.

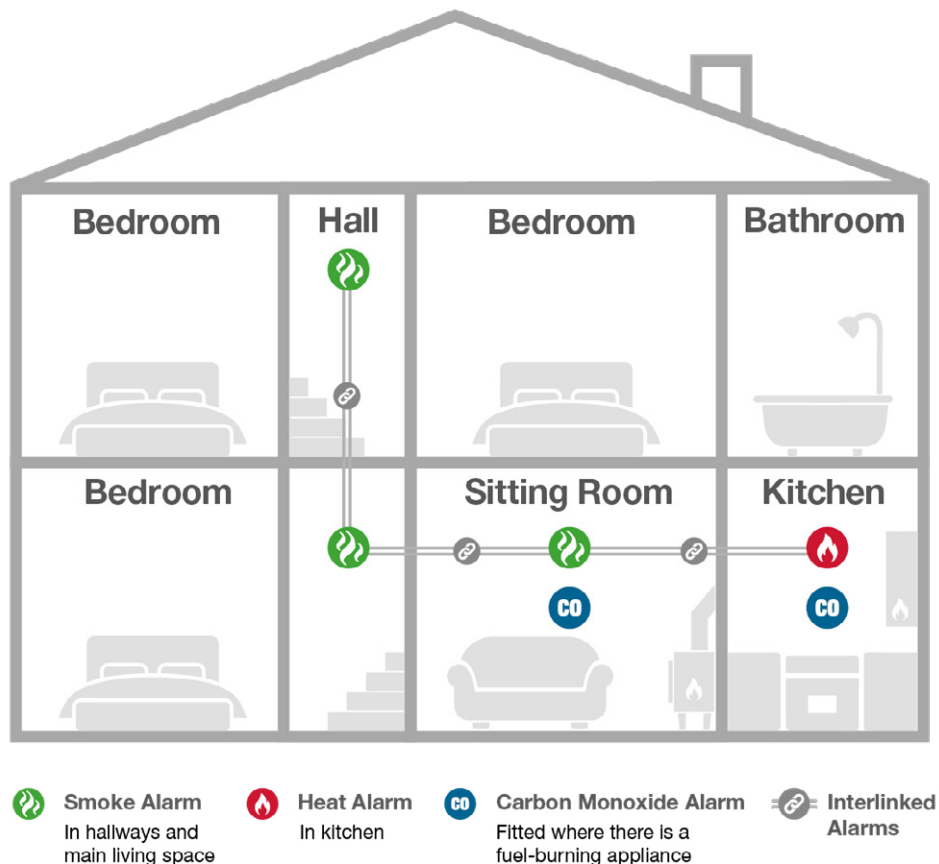
One bedroom flat



-  **Smoke Alarm**
In hallway and main living space
-  **Heat Alarm**
In kitchen
-  **Carbon Monoxide Alarm**
Fitted where there is a fuel-burning appliance
-  **Interlinked Alarms**

- ★ A 3 bedroom, 2 storey house will need 3 smoke alarms and one heat alarm. If you have a carbon fuelled appliance like a boiler, you will also need a carbon monoxide detector.

3 bedroom house



- ★ There are two types of alarms available:
 - ✓ Tamper proof long-life battery-operated alarms, which can last for up to 10 years, and can be fitted by the homeowner or a handyperson.
 - ✓ Mains wired alarms, which should be installed by a qualified electrician.
- ★ The homeowner is responsible for making sure their home meets the the new fire alarms standard, and for finding a contractor to carry out the work.
- ★ When purchasing an alarm, choose a reputable brand and make sure the packaging clearly displays compliance with BS EN14604:2005 for smoke alarms. Carbon monoxide alarms should have the British Kitemark (EN 50291-1). Heat alarms should comply with BS 5446-2:2003.
- ★ To find out more about the new legislation and the support available, visit:

mygov.scot/firealarms

How you can get involved

Campaign videos, leaflet, posters and social media assets are all available for you to use and share.

These assets explain how the law has changed and what that means for homeowners, including what alarms are required in every home and where they should be positioned. They also signpost to information for further support and guidance should it be required.

What are interlinked fire alarms?

By February 2022, every home in Scotland needs interlinked fire alarms. Alarms that talk to each other - so when one goes off, they all go off - helping everyone to react quicker and save more lives.

You might not hear the alarm closest to the fire, especially if you're somewhere else in the house. An interlinked system alerts you to danger immediately wherever you are in your home.

Are they battery-powered or mains-wired?

There are 2 different types of interlinked fire alarms:

- 1) Sealed long-life battery alarms, which you can fit yourself.
- 2) Mains-wired alarms, which should be installed by a qualified electrician.

Both meet the new fire safety standard. And both are linked by radio frequency without the need for WIFI.

Where do the alarms go?

Every home needs:

- 1 smoke alarm in the room you spend most of the day (usually your living room)
- 1 smoke alarm on every floor, either in the hallway or on the landing
- 1 heat alarm in the kitchen

All should be ceiling mounted and interlinked.

Will I need anything else?

If your home has a carbon-fuelled appliance - like a boiler, fire, heater or flue - you'll also need a separate carbon monoxide detector. **These do not have to be interlinked.**

mygov.scot/firealarms

The law on fire alarms has changed

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The law on fire alarms has changed.
Every home now needs to have interlinked fire alarms, alerting people to danger quicker no matter where they are in their home.

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All homes in Scotland now need interlinked fire alarms

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Example social media posts

Every home in Scotland must now have interlinked fire alarms - so that when one goes off they all go off. Find out what the new law means for you.
mygov.scot/firealarms

The law on fire alarms has changed. It is never too late to install interlinked fire alarms. They alert you to danger quicker and save more lives. Find out what you need to do.
mygov.scot/firealarms

Interlinked fire alarms are easy to install and sealed battery alarms do not require an electrician.
mygov.scot/firealarms

All homes in Scotland are now required to have interlinked fire alarms, meaning if one alarm goes off, they all go off.



mygov.scot/firealarms

All homeowners in Scotland now need to have a carbon monoxide detector in rooms with a boiler, gas fire or open fire.



mygov.scot/firealarms

The law on fire alarms has changed. Every home now needs to have interlinked fire alarms, alerting people to danger quicker no matter where they are in their home.



mygov.scot/firealarms

Assets

Please see links to a range of materials below to help share the messaging:



Illustration

Diagrams showing where fire alarms need to be installed.



Information leaflet

The leaflet is available in Audio, **BSL**, Large Print and Easy Read formats, and in additional languages.



Social media graphics and infographics



An explainer video



Link to the national TV advert



Poster



Where to find out more

For general guidance on interlinked fire alarms and frequently asked questions, visit:

mygov.scot/firealarms

For advice on fire safety or to request a Home Fire Safety Visit, contact The Scottish Fire and Rescue service on **0800 0731 999** or visit:

<https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/home-fire-safety-visit.aspx>

If you have any concerns about meeting housing standards, contact your local authority:

www.mygov.scot/find-your-local-council

For help with installing alarms if you're elderly or disabled contact your local Care and Repair service

www.careandrepairsotland.co.uk/office-locations.html. There is also funding available for those that are eligible for support - you must own your own home and this must be your main residence that has a council tax band of A-C, be of state pension age and in receipt of guaranteed Pension Credit, or have a disability and be in a support group for Employment and Support Allowance.

If you are concerned about a cold caller or about what a tradesperson is telling you, please call Trading Standards Scotland on **0808 164 6000**.

If you are worried about what the new legislation means for your home insurance you should speak to your insurance company. It is unlikely that an existing policy will be affected but this depends on the terms and conditions of your home insurance policy.

For any other queries please email the Scottish Government policy team: newfirealarmstandard@gov.scot

Contact

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please contact the team.

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To find out more visit
mygov.scot/firealarms



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