

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR REQUIREMENTS

The Village of Saltaire is working to ensure that homeowners are aware of the hazards of carbon monoxide and the new state law, known as Amanda's Law, which, as of February 22, 2010, requires all residences, both new and existing, to have carbon monoxide alarms installed.

The law is named for Amanda Hansen, 16, of West Seneca, who was found unconscious at a friend's house in January 2009. Officials later determined she had been exposed to lethal levels of carbon monoxide in the home's basement, where she and her friend were having a sleepover. She later died at South Buffalo Mercy Hospital.

Each year, fire departments in New York State respond to over 40,000 carbon monoxide related emergencies. Carbon monoxide poisoning is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the United States killing more than 2,100 people and injuring over 10,000 others.

Carbon monoxide can be produced when burning any fuel such as: gasoline, charcoal, propane, natural gas, kerosene, oil, wood, or coal. If any flammable or combustible material burns incompletely, carbon monoxide is produced.

Carbon monoxide can kill in minutes or hours depending on the level of carbon monoxide in the air.

How this law effects you:

If your home was built prior to January 1st 2008, you must have at least one battery powered carbon monoxide detector installed on the lowest level of the house with a sleeping area.

If your home was built after January 1st 2008, carbon monoxide detectors must be hardwired (they must be installed by a licensed electrician). Plug in devices do not satisfy the requirement.

Although specific requirements differ slightly for new and existing residences, the intent of the law is to help save lives from a silent, odorless and colorless killer.

Inexpensive carbon monoxide detectors are readily available for purchase from home improvement and hardware stores.

The Saltaire Fire Marshal will be checking to insure compliance during his annual inspections and is always available to answer any questions.