



Residential Self- Inspection Guide

Introduction

The “schéma de couverture de risque incendie de la MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges” requires the Hudson Fire Department to visit each dwelling every 5 years. The main purpose of these visits is to ensure that at least 1 working smoke alarm is present on each floor of a residence.

Over the years, residential fire prevention visits have proven to be effective. The number of fire-related deaths and property losses has decreased significantly over the past 10 years in Quebec.

In these times of the covid-19 pandemic, the Hudson Fire Department wants to continue to prevent fires with prevention visits, but we must also respect the health measures put in place by the Quebec government.

That's why this year we're empowering homeowners by asking you to self-inspect your home. We ask you to fill out the form we sent you in the mail and return it to us at the Hudson Fire Station.

It is important to self-inspect your residence to ensure the safety of your family.

This guide will help you do your self-inspection and fill out the form you received.

You can read the town bylaw No. 510 for fire prevention:

<https://hudson.quebec/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/510-Fire-prevention.pdf>

For any questions, comments or concerns please contact us.

Residential Self-Inspection Form

SECTION 1

General Information

General Information		
(Please fill in the boxes and/or circle the answers)		
Address :	Apt #:	Visible from the street: Yes No
Name:		Telephone #:
Number of floors :	Basement : Yes No	Garage : Yes (Detached or Attached) No

This section identifies your building. Please write down your address, the owner's name, the phone number, the number of floors, the presence of a basement and if you have a garage attached or detached if this is the case.

Civic address visible from the street:

The most important part of this section is the presence of your civic address visible from the street. In an emergency every second counts, which is why regulations exist regarding your civic address that must be visible from the street.

You can read the town bylaw No. 83 for mandatory house numbering:

<https://hudson.quebec/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/083-House-numbering.pdf>

SECTION 2

Detection

This section is the most important of a self-inspection. It is essential that every floor of your home, including the basement, be equipped with a working smoke alarm. The smoke alarm is the best tool to alert you if a fire breaks out in your home.

You can check that your smoke alarm is working by pressing the TEST button. The alarm should make a loud sound. Please refer to Appendix A for more information on smoke alarms.

Detection							
(Please fill in the boxes)							
Smoke alarm							
	Yes	No	Functional	Non-functional	Electric	Battery	Comment/Reason
Basement							
1st Floor							
2nd Floor							
3rd Floor							

Carbon monoxide detection is also very important. If your home poses a high risk of carbon monoxide emissions, the Fire Department recommends installing a carbon monoxide alarm on every floor of your home.

Carbon monoxide or gas detector							
High risk of CO emissions (attached garage, furnace, (oil or gas), wood stove): Yes No							
	Yes	No	Functional	Non-functional	Electric	Battery	Comment/Reason
Basement							
1st Floor							
2nd Floor							
3rd Floor							

Please refer to Appendix B for more information on carbon monoxide alarms.

You may also refer to Appendix C for gas detectors.

SECTION 3

Risks or Special Information

Risks or Special Information	
(Please fill in the boxes and/or circle the answers)	
Person with reduced mobility: Yes No	Description :
Propane : Yes No	Reservoir capacity:
Natural gas: Yes No	
Oxygen in use: Yes No	Total capacity :

- **Person with reduced mobility :**

If an occupant of your home has reduced mobility, it is important that the Fire Department has this information. The evacuation of that person may be more challenging and will be our priority in the event of a fire.

A person with reduced mobility is considered a person that would be unable to evacuate the residence on his/her own. It can be an inability to move, a vision impairment or a hearing problem.

- **Propane or natural gas:**

The presence of a propane tank or natural gas entry is an important fact during an intervention. Propane and natural gas are flammable gases and it is important for the Fire Department to know whether or not they are present during a fire.

- **Oxygen in use:**

If oxygen is used continuously in the residence, it is important that the Fire Department has this information because oxygen is an oxidizing gas that could fuel a fire

In the event of a fire, a verification of these three items is always carried out once on scene. By notifying us in advance of these particular risks, we will know that they are present and we will therefore be able to establish a more detailed strategy.

SECTION 4

Additional Information

- **Electricity :**

Please make sure that the electrical panel is accessible and has a minimum clearance of 3' on all sides. Assure that there is no water infiltration near the panel or sign of carbonization. You can always contact a certified electrician if you have any questions.

- **Excessive accumulation of flammable and combustible liquid:**

Large amounts of flammable and combustible liquids should not be stored inside a residence, including the garage (ex: 30 litres of fuel). It is also recommended that all flammable liquids be stored in a flammable liquid storage cabinet or any other device of the same function.

- **Propane tank:**

All propane bottles must be stored outdoors including the garage and shed. The only propane tanks allowed indoors are small camping propane bottles of 1 liter or less.

- **Plan or evacuation exercise:**

In the event of a fire in your home, every second counts and it is important for every family member to know what to do. Everyone has to get out safely. For children living in the residence, we encourage you to discuss and practice the evacuation plan frequently. You need to determine a meeting point at a safe distance from the house so that people can ensure that all occupants have left the structure. The best gathering point would be at the end of your entrance/driveway.

For more information on evacuation plans, please visit the website of the Quebec Ministry of Public Safety:

<https://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/en/fire-safety/preventing-a-fire/home-evacuation-plan.html>

- **Exits and exit doors:**

All exits and exit doors must be accessible and clear at all times. In a fire with a smokey environment, a clear, obstruction-free exit could make the difference between evacuating the building or remaining trapped inside.

For other fire safety questions regarding your heating systems, stove or wood fireplace, outdoor open fire, etc., please do not hesitate to contact us.

You can reach us at 450-458-4011 ext. 134 or by email at prevention@ville.hudson.qc.ca

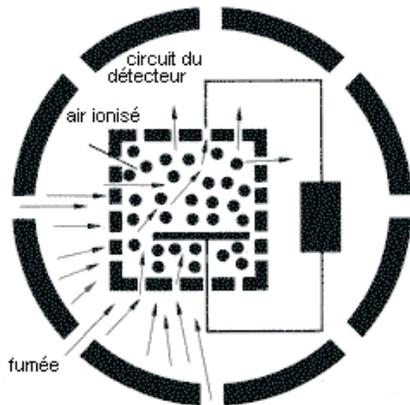
Appendix A

Smoke Alarm

There are two types of smoke alarms:

- **Ionizing smoke alarm:**

This type of smoke alarm is the most common. It reacts to a very light invisible smoke. It works with a radioactive cell (americium 241). The radioactive cell dies after 10 years and the alarm no longer detects smoke effectively. It needs to be replaced. The expired smoke detector can be disposed of in any standard garbage can.



Avertisseurs de fumée à ionisation

- **Photoelectric smoke alarm:**

This type of alarm detects thicker black smoke. It works with a light and deflectors. When the smoke reaches the detector, it deflects light and triggers the alarm. This alarm can be used in small houses/apartments or if an ionizing smoke alarm goes off too often causing false alarms. Like the ionizing smoke detector, after 10 years, it must be replaced.

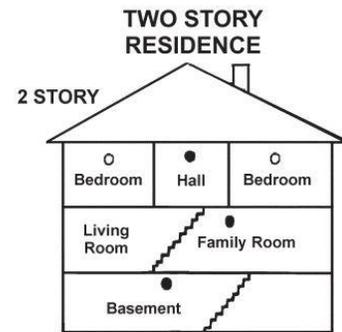
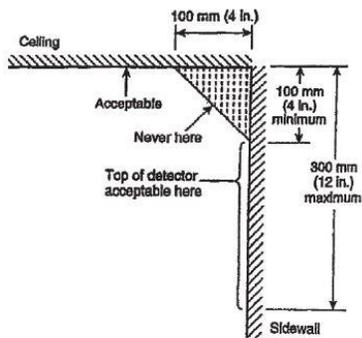
Note :

The date the alarm is manufactured or the replacement date is identified at the back of the alarm. If the alarm has no date, it is likely that it is more than 10 years old and should be replaced.

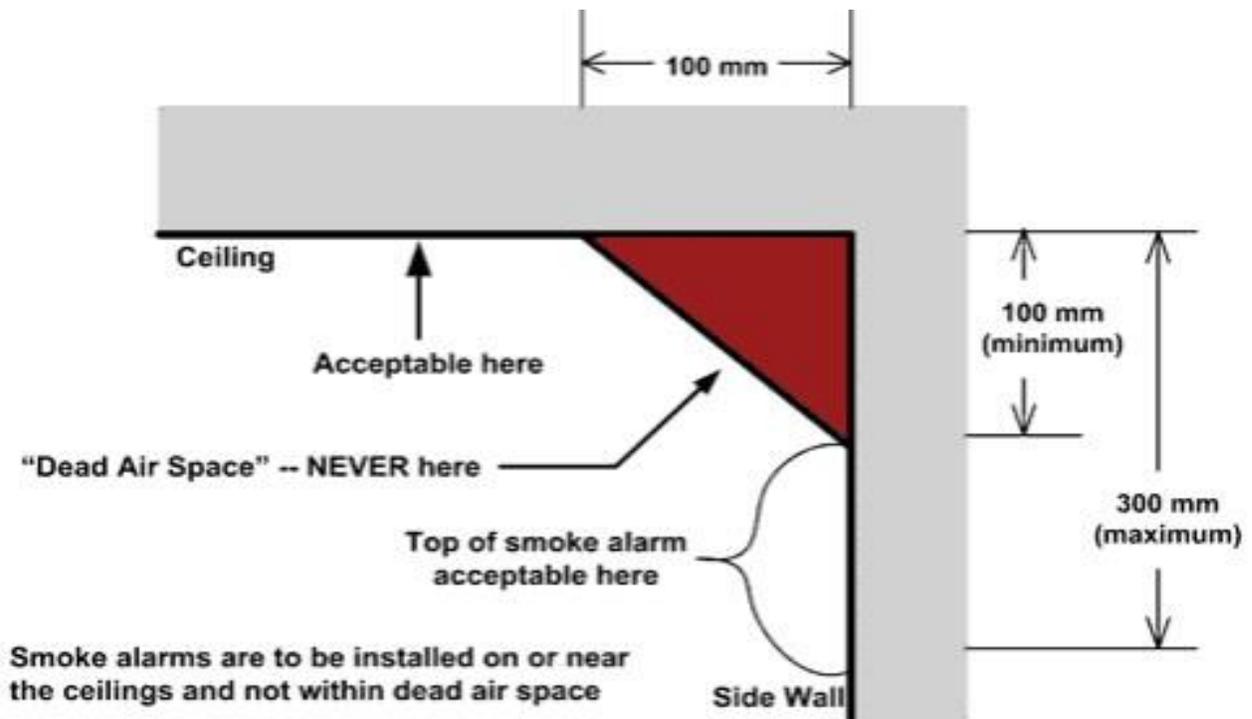


Appropriate location of alarms :

Town regulations require that at least one smoke alarm be present on each floor of a residence. They should be placed near the bedrooms or at every place where a person could sleep. Also, if a person sleeps with the bedroom door closed, in addition to the alarm in the hallway, we recommend installing an alarm inside the room.



It is best to install the smoke alarm on the ceiling. If the alarm often causes false alarms, the alarm can be placed on the wall near the ceiling as shown in the image below.



Smoke alarms should be installed at least 1 meter from a window, an outside door, ceiling fan or air conditioning/ventilation unit.

For more information on smoke alarms, please visit the website of the Quebec Ministry of Public Safety:

<https://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/en/fire-safety/preventing-a-fire/smoke-alarms.html>

Appendix B

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm :

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a very dangerous gas. This gas is odorless, colorless and deadly. You can't feel it, see it or taste it so it can kill you without warning.

Carbon monoxide is produced by a residue of incomplete combustion. It can be produced by a multitude of things. If one of the following pieces of equipment is present in your home, the presence of a carbon monoxide alarm is highly recommended on every floor.

- Attached garage with car inside
- Wood-burning stove or fireplace
- Heating with propane or natural gas
- Households that run on propane or natural gas
- Oil heating
- Extra heating with Kerosene



Carbon monoxide alarms have a lifespan of between 3 to 5 years according to the manufacturer's recommendations

For more information, please visit the website of the Quebec Ministry of Public Safety:

<https://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/en/fire-safety/preventing-a-fire/carbon-monoxide.html>

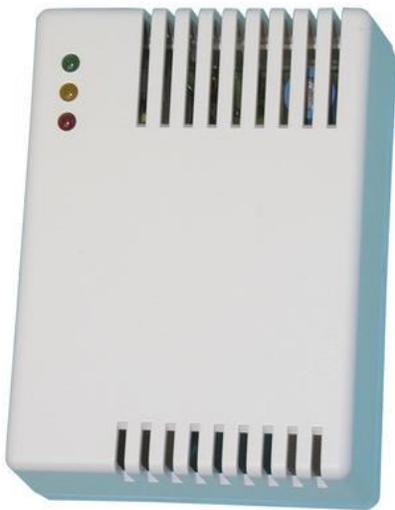
Appendix C

Gas emissions detector :

Propane and natural gas are flammable gases. At a certain concentration in the air, if a source of ignition is present, these gases will create an explosion. At a very high concentration, propane or natural gas will take the place of oxygen and this would represent a great danger to the occupants of the residence. We encourage the occupants of a residence where these gases may be present to be equipped with propane or natural gas detectors.

An appropriate gas detector must be present for the type of gas used in the residence. Residents could use propane or natural gas for heating, stove and possibly other household appliances

A gas detector must be replaced after a maximum of 3 to 5 years, as recommended by the manufacturer.



Appropriate location:

- Propane:

Propane is a gas heavier than air (1.5 vapor density), the gas will remain at ground level and travel into the basement. The detector must be installed on the wall as close to the floor as possible. There should be one on the lowest floor (ex. basement) of the building and one on the floors where propane is used. A 400 lb. propane tank must be 3 feet from a basement window and 10 feet from a mechanical source (A/C unit, electrical appliance).

- Natural gas:

Natural gas is a gas lighter than air (steam density 0.7). The gas will try to reach the highest point of the house. The detector must be placed on the ceiling or on the wall (such as the smoke detector). There should be one on the top floor and one on the floors where natural gas is used.

There are carbon monoxide alarms combined with a gas emissions detector. As long as these combined alarms have the certifications listed on the next page, these alarms are compliant and approved.

The smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and gas emissions detectors used must have one of the following certifications:

- ULC



- CSA



- UL

