



Fire Safety for your New Home – How the Building Code works to protect you

By Brittany Baltimore, Stakeholder Relations, BILD Alberta

Congratulations on your decision to purchase a newly built home! By now you've familiarized yourself with your builder and their new home warranty provider and you may be wondering what else is in place to help protect your newest asset.

Understanding fire safety is an important aspect of home ownership – even though you hope you will never need to put this knowledge to use.

Smoke Alarms – Your first line of defence

Smoke alarms are the first line of defence in the event of a fire. Recent changes to the Building Code have improved the safety provided by smoke alarms in new homes - Previously, only one smoke alarm was required outside bedrooms but now there must be a smoke alarm on every level of your home. The type of smoke alarm required has also changed so that they are louder.

In new homes, the Building Code requires smoke alarms to be hard wired into the electrical system of your house. This ensures that your alarms are always working even if the batteries fail. While this is a great back-up, make sure to always replace the batteries in your smoke alarms at least once per year.

Building Codes

Building Codes help protect you and your home in the event of a fire. There are other ways the Building Code is working to protect you beyond the use of smoke alarms. To reduce the spread of fire between homes, Building Codes require better fire protection for walls, smaller window openings and roof overhangs in houses close to property lines. If you have any questions about Building Codes in your new home, talk to your builder.

Make a safety plan

While smoke alarms and the Building Code are working hard to keep you and your loved ones safe in your new home, it's now time to do your part. Get to know your new home by locating all the exits and create an escape plan for each room with a safe meeting point outside the home. Make sure to practice the escape plan with everyone living in the home, especially the little ones!

You may never need to put your plan into action but it's important to arm yourself with knowledge and be prepared so you can comfortably enjoy your new home. Learn more about home fire safety at 3minutedrill.alberta.ca.



Building Industry and Land Development Alberta Association (BILD Alberta) is the unified voice for the land development, home building and renovation industry in Alberta. BILD Alberta represents over 1,700 business members from 12 constituent associations committed to building communities throughout Alberta.

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