



Smoke / Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Maintaining and understanding your unit's Smoke/Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm is an important and ongoing task, and one that should not be overlooked.

Backup batteries need to be replaced regularly, and the detectors themselves have a finite lifespan, and need to be replaced when worn out.

Smoke/CO alarms can last for 8-10 years, but the reality is that some units only last 5-6 years before needing replacement.

Since Greene Ave Condo was opened in 2010, some of the Smoke/CO alarms may now be 11 or 12 years old. The date on the back of the detector is the actual manufacture date, and you can count forwards from there.

Note that the smoke/CO alarms installed at Greene Ave Condo are hardwired for A/C power, but also contain a backup battery to insure operation in the event of a power failure.

If your smoke/CO alarm is not connected to A/C power, and the battery wears out or is missing, then it will not work to protect the occupants of your apartment.

Beeping Sounds

If your smoke alarm is beeping 3 times in a row followed by a short pause repeated, this means there could be smoke in the house.

If your smoke alarm is beeping 4 times in a row followed by a pause repeated, this means there could be CO (Carbon Monoxide) in the house.

Intermittent chirping can indicate the need for a battery replacement.

Chiming even after battery replacement: Smoke/CO alarms eventually wear out and lose their ability to detect smoke and CO particles and molecules. When the sensor wears out, it keeps chiming -- even with fresh batteries. This is a typical symptom of a Smoke/Carbon Monoxide alarm that needs replacement.

Resources:

The below links have info and manuals for First Alert model SC9120B (which is the model that was originally installed here at Greene Ave Condo):

<http://www.brkelectronics.com/product/SC9120B>

Purchase:

<https://www.amazon.com/First-Alert-SC9120B-Hardwire-Combination/dp/B0008MVW12>

What causes intermittent beeping or chirping?

<https://www.kidde.com/home-safety/en/us/support/help-center/browse-articles/articles/what-causes-intermittent-beeping-or-chirping.aspx>

How long do CO and CO/Smoke combo alarms last?

http://www.brkelectronics.com/faqs/oem/how_long_do_co_and_co-smoke_combo_alarms_last

What Does a Carbon Monoxide Detector Do and How Does it Work?

<https://www.safewise.com/home-security-faq/carbon-monoxide-detector/>

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Responsibilities

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/smoke-carbon-monoxide-detectors.page>

