***SMOKE ALARMS IN SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS***

In single-family dwellings, as per section 9.10.19.3. of the National Building Code, there shall be at least one smoke alarm on each storey including basements.

The code goes on to state that (9.10.13.3.[1][b]) “on any storey of a dwelling unit containing sleeping rooms, a smoke alarm is installed

1. In each sleeping room, and
2. In a location between the sleeping rooms and the remainder of the storey, and if the sleeping rooms are served by a hallway, the smoke alarm shall be located in a hallway.”

\*It is important to note that the code does not put a distance on “the remainder of the storey,” whereas hallways that serve bedrooms are required to have at least one smoke alarm. When a bedroom is not served by a hallway, the location of the smoke alarm that separates the bedroom from “the remainder of the storey” falls under the discretion of the authority having jurisdiction. For example, if 3 bedrooms (not served by a hallway) lead to an open concept living room/kitchen/dining area, and all can be served by a single smoke alarm within 5 m of each bedroom, one smoke alarm is permitted (as opposed to a smoke alarm directly outside each bedroom).

***CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS IN SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS***

Every single-family dwelling that has an attached garage or a fuel-burning appliance (not only wood/pellet, but propane, natural gas, etc.) requires CO detectors. Below is a summary of the section of the NBC pertaining to CO detectors:

9.32.3.9.(3): a CO detector is required in any room containing a solid-fuel-burning appliance. This rule is specific to solid-fuel appliances like wood/pellets.

9.32.3.9.(4): If there is a fuel burning appliance of any kind in a house, or the house has an attached garage, a CO detector shall be installed. You would not need a CO detector in a mechanical room, for example, if a propane hot water heater is installed, but you would still need the CO detectors to protect sleeping rooms, outlined below:

 a) inside each bedroom, or

b) outside each bedroom, within 5 m of each bedroom door, measured following corridors and doorways.