



ARCATA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

631 NINTH STREET, ARCATA, CA 95521-6204
(707) 825-2000 Fax: (707) 822-7951

Notice To Tenants of Multi-Unit Dwellings

RE: Laws Regarding Installation and Maintenance of Smoke Alarms

Dear Tenants;

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of your responsibilities relative to the smoke alarms in your occupancy and the negative effects to you of failing to follow these requirements.

The Arcata Fire District's primary focus is to keep people safe from the effects of fires. One of the best tools available to our community for fire and life safety is installation and maintenance of smoke alarms. The California Legislature has recognized the importance of these devices and passed laws related to smoke alarms.

The owner/manager of your hotel, motel, or apartment building is responsible for installing smoke alarms. They are also responsible for maintenance and testing of smoke alarms. They must do so during normal business hours and after providing reasonable written notice to the tenants.

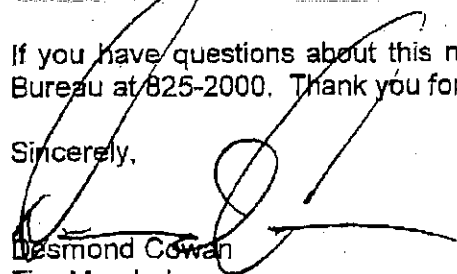
The tenant is responsible for notifying the owner/manager when he or she becomes aware that the smoke alarm is not working. **Per Penal Code Section 148.4, it is unlawful for tenants to disable smoke alarms.** Violation of this law is punishable by fine of \$1000.00 per occurrence and/or imprisonment. Furthermore, an owner/manager may request immediate eviction due to your establishment and maintenance of a life safety hazard. Such an eviction may be supported by documents of the Arcata Fire District.

The reason for such laws is that smoke alarms are designed to save your life and the lives of all the other people in the building. You may occasionally be annoyed by your smoke alarm, but that does not give you the right to endanger all other occupants of the building by disabling your smoke alarm.

The Arcata Fire District will issue citations to occupants that disable smoke alarms.

If you have questions about this notice, contact the Arcata Fire District, Fire Prevention Bureau at 825-2000. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Desmond Cowan
Fire Marshal