

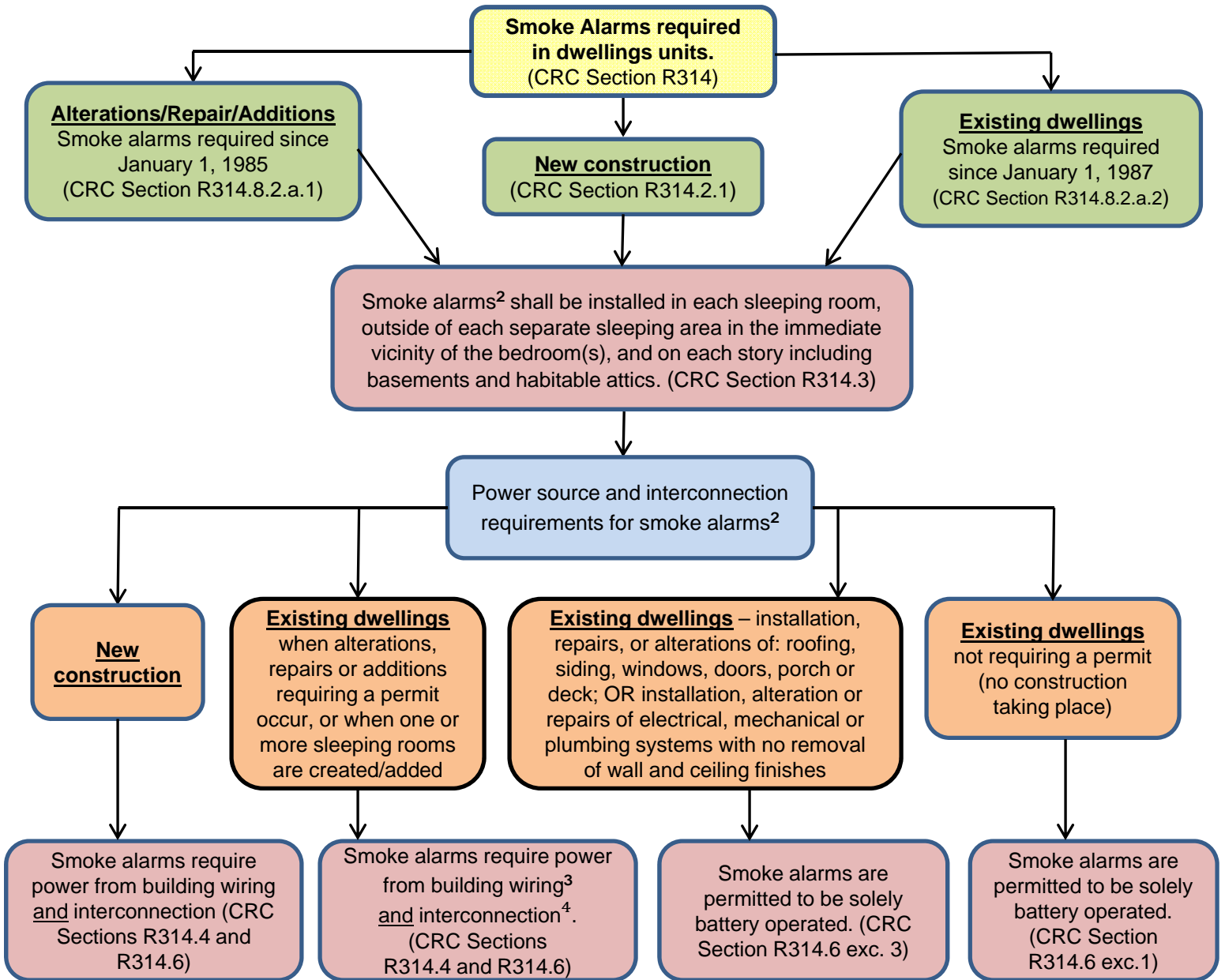
Planning & Development
Building & Safety Division

GUIDELINE: Smoke Alarm Requirements in Single Family Dwellings¹

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NOTE: This guideline is intended to enhance local consistency in application and enforcement of the 2016 California Residential Code. Application of this guideline is project specific and does not authorize any violation of local or state code, ordinance or law in conjunction with the proposed work



1. Buildings that contain one or two dwelling units, townhouses, congregate residences with 16 or fewer persons.
2. Smoke alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 217 and installed in accordance with the provisions of CRC and NFPA 72.
3. Since knob-and-tube wiring does not have an equipment grounding conductor and has a much lower insulation heat range than newer wiring types, existing buildings equipped with knob-and-tube wiring may have solely battery powered smoke alarms.
4. Hardwiring and interconnection is not required in existing dwelling units where:
 - A. No construction is taking place
 - B. Repairs do not result in the removal of wall or ceiling finishes, unless there is an attic⁵, crawlspace⁵ or basement available which could provide access for wiring³ and interconnection³ without the removal of interior finishes
 - C. Repairs or alterations are limited to exterior surfaces
 - D. Work is limited to the installation, alteration or repair of plumbing, mechanical, or electrical systems, which do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure.
5. For attic or crawlspace to be considered accessible it must have an access opening (18"x24" min. at crawlspace; 22"x30" min. at attic) and 30" minimum vertical clearance at all locations where wiring is installed.