



EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

**Fire & Carbon Monoxide
Alerting Equipment for Eligible
Delawareans with Hearing Loss**

A Partnership Between:

DE OFFICE FOR THE DEAF &
HARD OF HEARING
DELAWARE STATE FIRE
MARSHAL'S OFFICE



DELAWARE HOUSE BILL 53

PURPOSE OF ACCESSIBLE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

- Closes the critical gap between an alarm sounding and a resident recognizing the emergency.
- Ensures safety for individuals with hearing loss or deafness.
- Transforms accessible fire safety into a coordinated program, not just a device.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS & SUPPORT

- Establishes the Delaware Fire & Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program.
- Provides home assessment, appropriate equipment selection, and professional installation.
- Includes resident education on equipment use and emergency response.
- Connects fire-safety expertise with accessibility and communication support.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION & LEADERSHIP

- **Signed into Law:** July 21, 2025
- **Primary Sponsors:** Representative Morrison & Senator Lockman
- **House Co-Sponsors:** Representatives Osienski, Griffith, Neal, Burns, Ross Levin, Collins, Gorman, K. Johnson, Morris, Romer, Wilson-Anton, Bush, Snyder-Hall.
- **Senate Co-Sponsors:** Senators Walsh, Hansen, Hoffner, Hocker, Paradee, Poore.



WHY THIS PROGRAM MATTERS

INADEQUATE STANDARD ALARMS:

- Traditional audible fire and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms fail to protect individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, or Deaf Blind.

INVISIBLE THREAT:

- Carbon monoxide is completely odorless, invisible, and highly poisonous, making physical detection impossible without proper technology.

FREE SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT:

- Delaware's Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program provides eligible residents with free visual (light) and tactile (vibration) alerting systems.

LIFE-SAVING EARLY DETECTION:

- Early sensory-accessible alerts ensure critical extra time for vulnerable individuals to wake up, escape, and call for emergency help.

WHO THIS PROGRAM SERVES

TARGET AUDIENCE:

- The safety program specifically serves Delaware residents who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, or Deaf Blind.

VULNERABILITY FOCUS:

- Specialized alerting devices are prioritized for households requiring accessible, non-auditory notifications to stay safe while sleeping.

INCLUSIVE HOUSING ELIGIBILITY:

- The program accommodates both adults and children in residential settings, including single-family homes, mobile homes, and manufactured homes.

FLEXIBLE PROGRAM CRITERIA:

- Final applicant eligibility and specific equipment selection are tailored to established program guidelines and unique individual household needs.

PROGRAM GOALS

- IMPROVE SAFETY
- PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY
- PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE



PROGRAM PARTNERS

JOINT AGENCY COLLABORATION:

- The program combines DODHH's accessibility expertise with DSFMO's fire safety authority to build a resident-centered safety network.

DODHH RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH) handles administration, applicant assistance, interpreter coordination, and program oversight.

DSFMO RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office (DSFMO) conducts home inspections, recommends and installs devices, user training, and fire guidance.

CORE MISSION ALIGNMENT:

- This partnership ensures participants receive equipment that simultaneously meets specific accessibility needs and strict state fire safety standards.



WHAT THE PROGRAM PROVIDES

PROVIDED EQUIPMENT:

- The program offers specialized devices like flash receivers, bed shakers, vibrating notification units, and accessible alarm clocks.

CORE PROTECTION:

- Participants will receive dedicated smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

- Exact equipment selection depends on home layout, sleeping arrangements, and home assessments.

ZERO COST:

- Eligible residents receive all approved assistive alerting technology completely free of charge to match their specific household safety needs.

BELLMAN & SYMFON ALERT DEVICES



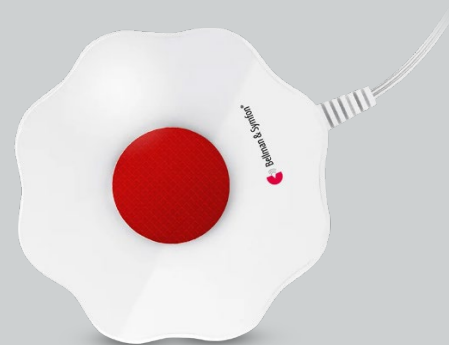
SMOKE ALARMS



**CARBON MONOXIDE
ALARMS**



FLASH RECEIVERS



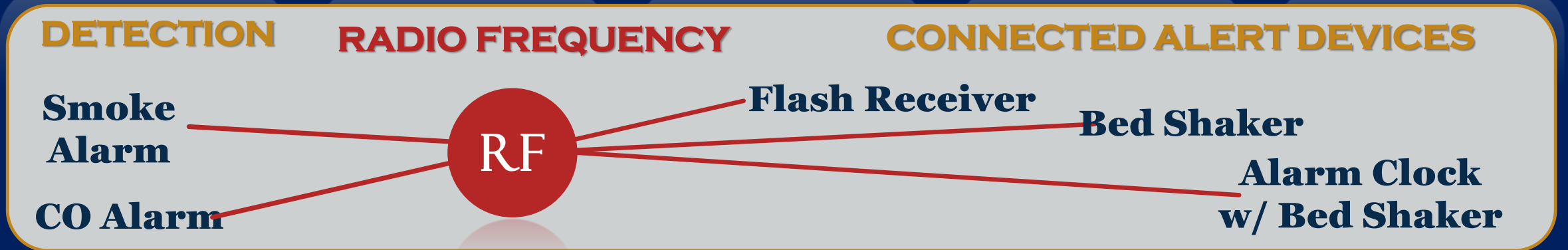
BED SHAKERS



**ALARM CLOCKS
WITH BED SHAKERS**

Fire & Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program

HOW FIRE & CO ALARM PROTECTION WORKS



DIRECT RADIO FREQUENCY
NO WI-FI • NO WIRES • NO CELLULAR SERVICE REQUIRED

Fire & Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program

SMOKE ALARM PROTECTION

ADVANCED ALERTING FEATURES:

- Available systems include bright flashing strobe lights, wireless interconnected alarms, and long-life battery designs tailored for hearing loss.

STRATEGIC INSTALLATION:

- Proper device placement across floors and sleeping areas ensures whole-home warning coverage, regardless of where a fire originates.

MAINTENANCE AND TESTING:

- Users must regularly test and maintain. Recommended to vacuum regularly.

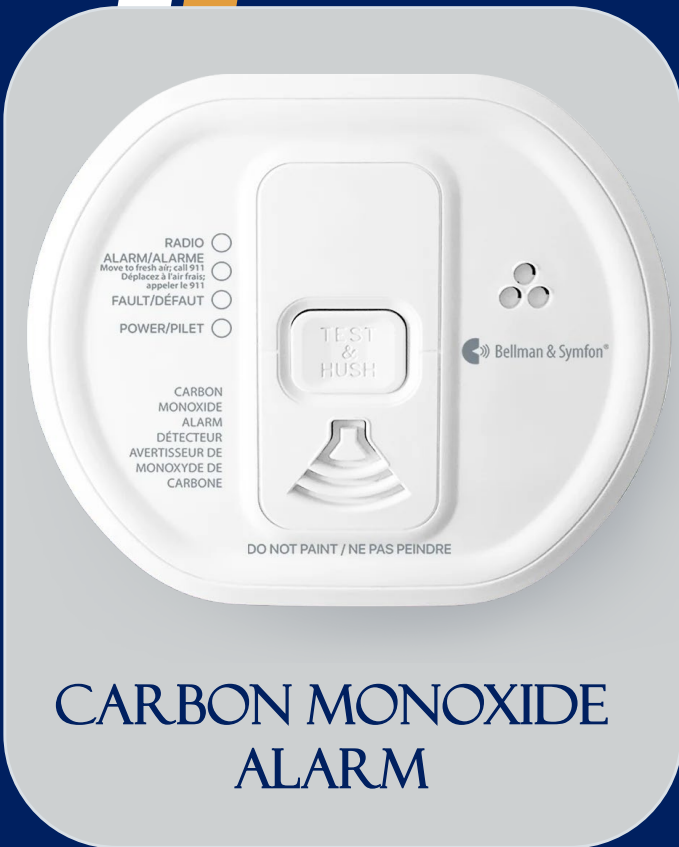
EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms require immediate action, following household emergency plans, and calling 911 when an alert activates.



SMOKE ALARM

CARBON MONOXIDE PROTECTION



DEADLY THREAT & SYMPTOMS:

- Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas that causes severe symptoms including headaches, dizziness, nausea, confusion, and unconsciousness.

RISK SOURCES & PLACEMENT:

- High-risk CO emission sources include furnaces, fireplaces, generators, and gas appliances, requiring alarms strategically placed near these areas.

ACCESSIBLE NOTIFICATION:

- Visual and tactile alerts provide critical, immediate warnings of dangerous CO levels for individuals with hearing loss.

ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE:

- To ensure constant and reliable protection, alarm batteries must be routinely replaced every 6 months.

FLASH RECEIVERS



FLASH RECEIVER

VISUAL ALERTING TECHNOLOGY:

- Flash receivers flash high-intensity strobe lights to provide a bright, highly perceptible visual warning when a smoke or carbon monoxide alarm activates.

WIRELESS PORTABILITY:

- Devices connect wirelessly without requiring physical cables, allowing them to be fully portable throughout the home within their operational communication range. Reminder, if you opt for a flash receiver for the bedroom, it must remain in the bedroom at all times.

WHOLE-HOME COVERAGE:

- Strategically placing receivers across multiple rooms—such as living rooms, hallways, basements, and upstairs areas—extends emergency awareness beyond the room of origin.

DAILY DEVICE CARE:

- Systems are designed for everyday use and must be recharged daily to remain ready and reliable when occupants are in a different room from the main alarm.

BEDROOM SAFETY IS ESSENTIAL



HIGH-RISK SLEEPING HOURS:

- Most fatal home fires occur while people sleep, making bedroom protection the highest priority during home safety assessments.

SPECIALIZED WAKING DEVICES:

- Bed shakers, strobes, vibrating receivers, and bedside alert clocks provide physical alerts tailored to wake individuals with hearing loss.

STRATEGIC PLACEMENT:

- At least one specialized alerting device must remain in the bedroom to ensure maximum survival time during a nighttime emergency.

COORDINATED ESCAPE PLANNING:

- Bedroom alerts must be paired with a practiced household escape plan, which can extend to portable protection for travel.



3 OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

1) FLASH RECEIVER or 2) FLASH RECEIVER & BED SHAKER or 3) ALARM CLOCK W/ BED SHAKER

ALARM CLOCKS & BED SHAKERS



ALARM CLOCK W/
BED SHAKER

VIBRATION-BASED ALERTS:

- Specialized bed shakers vibrate vigorously upon alarm synchronization to wake sleeping individuals who cannot hear audible warnings.

DUAL-PURPOSE FUNCTIONALITY:

- Alarm clocks integrate daily wake-up functions with critical emergency fire and carbon monoxide notifications for multi-layer protection.

CONTINUOUS POWER READINESS:

- Bedside units must remain plugged in constantly, relying on internal battery backups only during temporary power losses.

OVERNIGHT SAFETY TARGETS:

- These tactical systems directly benefit deep sleepers, hearing aid users, and cochlear implant users, when devices are removed overnight.



FIRE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALERT DEVICE PROGRAM

10-STEP PROCESS

-  APPLICATION RECEIVED BY DODHH
-  ELIGIBILITY REVIEWED BY DODHH
-  EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATION BY FIRE MARSHAL
-  APPLICANT CONTACTED BY DOHH & BEDROOM EQUIPMENT SELECTED BY APPLICANT
-  APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED BY DODHH
-  INSTALLATION BY FIRE MARSHAL
-  EQUIPMENT TESTING BY FIRE MARSHAL
-  RESIDENT TRAINING BY FIRE MARSHAL
-  DOCUMENTATION & SIGNATURES
-  COPY OF SIGNED DOCUMENTATION EMAILED TO APPLICANT BY DODHH



FIRE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALERT DEVICE PROGRAM APPLICATION

This information helps determine the right equipment for each home. Applying is simple.

Questions for the applicant include the following;

1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
2. CONTACT INFORMATION
3. COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES
4. TYPE OF RESIDENCE
5. HOUSEHOLD & HOME LAYOUT DETAILS
6. IF GAS APPLIANCES OR ATTACHED GARAGE ARE PRESENT
7. BEDROOM & SLEEPING AREA INFORMATION
8. EXISTING ALARMS & SAFETY FEATURES
9. ADDITIONAL RESIDENCES (RV/CAMPER)



Once received, the Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing coordinates the next steps in the application process.





Delaware Department of Labor / Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Delaware Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

4425 N. Market St • Wilmington, DE 19802 • ODHH (302) 504-4741 • DOL_DODHH@delaware.gov

Fire & Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program Application Form

Applicant Information (Individual Receiving Equipment)

Full Name:

Date of Birth:

Address (Installation Location):

Street Address:

City: State: **DE** ZIP:

County: ☐ New Castle ☐ Kent ☐ Sussex

Phone Number: Text:

Email Address:

Best Way to Contact You ☐ Text ☐ Email ☐ Voice Call ☐ Video Phone ☐ Other:

Do you require an ASL interpreter for appointments related to this application? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Primary Residence / Household Information

How many Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals reside in the household?

Type of residence: ☐ Single-family home ☐ Apartment ☐ Townhouse ☐ Other:

How many occupied levels are there in the home?

Do you have working smoke alarms in the home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, are they ☐ Hardwired ☐ Monitored (Security System) ☐ Unknown

Are there any gas appliances in the home (stove, furnace, etc.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, where are they located within the home:

Garage?: ☐ Attached Garage, w/ vehicles ☐ Attached Garage, no vehicles ☐ Detached Garage

Do you have a second residence where you occasionally reside? (camper, RV, etc.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Bedrooms/Sleeping Areas:

Does anyone regularly sleep in a guest room? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, how many bedrooms are occupied by Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals?

One alerting device will remain in the bedroom. Please select one of the following for every bedroom occupied by Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals. If there is only one bedroom occupied, please leave Bedroom #2 blank. See pg. 2 for equipment details.

Bedroom #1: ☐ Flash Receiver ☐ Flash Receiver w/ Bed Shaker ☐ Alarm Clock w/ Bed Shaker

Bedroom #2: ☐ Flash Receiver ☐ Flash Receiver w/ Bed Shaker ☐ Alarm Clock w/ Bed Shaker

How are the bedrooms positioned in the layout of the home? If household members sleep separately: *Be specific, as this will determine equipment quantity and placement.*

☐ Same Wing ☐ On Opposite Sides ☐ On Different Levels Of The Home.

APPLYING FOR THIS PROGRAM

https://statefiremarshal.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/110/2026/08/EDP_Application_Form.pdf

Applications are submitted to:
Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
4425 N. Market St • Wilmington, DE 19802
302-824-2175 Text 302-504-4741 VP
Christina.Feil@delaware.gov
DOL_DODHH@delaware.gov

HOME ASSESSMENT & INSTALLATION

STEP-BY-STEP WORKFLOW:

- The application process moves systematically from DODHH eligibility review, to State Fire Marshal home evaluation, professional installation, testing, and resident user training.

ESTIMATED DELIVERY TIMELINES:

- The journey from application referral to assessment takes roughly 2–4 weeks, followed by device installation within approximately 2–6 weeks.

SCHEDULING FACTORS & EDUCATION:

- Exact timelines depend on equipment stock, interpreter scheduling, and home access, concluding with comprehensive resident education on device maintenance and fire safety guidance.



MAINTENANCE AND TESTING

ROUTINE POWER AND TESTING:

- Charge flash receivers daily.
- Keep bedroom alarm clocks and flash receivers plugged in.
- Test alarms, receivers, and bed shakers every six months to guarantee functionality.

BI-ANNUAL CO BATTERY CHANGES

- Replace carbon monoxide alarm batteries every six months.

CLEANING MAINTENANCE:

- Vacuum devices regularly to keep them free of dust and debris.

PROHIBITED ACTIONS & TROUBLESHOOTING:

- Do not remove the bedroom receiving device (alarm clock or flash receiver).
- Promptly contact program staff if equipment malfunctions

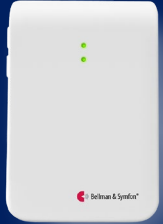
MOVING?

- The equipment is yours to keep however we ask that you notify us when you move so we can update our records.

BELLMAN & SYMFON

VISIT SMART HOME SYSTEM

DOORBELL TRANSMITTERS:



- Wireless units that connect directly to an existing door chime or pick up audio alerts to trigger the flash receiver when a visitor arrives.

TELEPHONE TRANSMITTERS:



- Detectors that plug directly into standard landline telephone infrastructure to broadcast real-time incoming call visual alerts.

BABY MONITOR TRANSMITTERS:



- Highly sensitive voice and noise detection units that continuously monitor a child's nursery to alert parents to crying or distress.

PUSH BUTTON TRANSMITTERS:



- Manual, pocket-sized, or wall-mountable call buttons used by caregivers or residents to send a direct emergency help signal.

MOBILE PHONE SENSORS:



- Small accessory sensors that track smartphone notifications (such as incoming text messages or mobile calls) and mirror them via the flash receiver strobe lights.

CONTACT MAT:



- Under-mat contact pads that sync with the receiver to notify that someone is at the door leaving/entering.



PROGRAM CONTACTS

CHRISTINA FEIL

DE Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

302-824-2175 Text

302-504-4741 VP

Christina.Feil@delaware.gov

REBEKAH LEPORE

DE State Fire Marshal's Office

302-383-9908 Text

Rebekah.Lepore@delaware.gov