

Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Policy

Status: Final

Version: 2.0

Effective Date: March 2026

Approved by: Director Elisha Jenkins

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for the assessment, distribution, installation, maintenance, and documentation of fire and carbon monoxide alert systems provided through the Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH).

These systems are intended to ensure Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, and DeafBlind residents receive accessible notification in the event of smoke, fire, or carbon monoxide exposure in the home.

This program increases public safety, reduces preventable injury, and ensures compliance with Delaware's fire and building safety expectations.

SECTION 2 – AUTHORITY

This policy is authorized under House Bill 53, which designates the Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), under DVR, as the administering authority for distribution of assistive safety equipment statewide.

Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program provided through the Accessibility Equipment Program (AEP) supplement, but do not replace smoke or carbon monoxide alarms required under state or local fire and building codes. Property owners and occupants remain responsible for maintaining compliance with all applicable safety regulations.

Devices and installation must comply with:

- NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code
- Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations
- Manufacturer specifications
- State procurement and approved vendor requirements (OMB)

Implementation details, timelines, communication procedures, and administrative processes related to this policy are addressed in program guidelines and internal operational protocols.

SECTION 3 – DEFINITIONS

Fire Alert System

A system consisting of one or more life-safety detectors (smoke and/or carbon monoxide) connected to visual, tactile, or multi-sensory alerting devices designed for individuals with hearing loss.

Installation Partner

The Delaware State Fire Marshal, who serves as the sole authorized entity for installation and verification of fire and carbon monoxide alert systems under this policy.

Home Assessment

An on-site evaluation of home layout, bedroom location, power availability, and environmental safety considerations prior to installation.

Client

A Delaware resident who receives fire and/or carbon monoxide alert equipment under the Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program.

SECTION 4 – ELIGIBILITY**4.1 Residency**

Applicant must be a Delaware resident with valid proof of address.

4.2 Disability Documentation

Applicants must provide documentation verifying a hearing loss, deafness, or DeafBlindness that impacts communication access. Acceptable forms of documentation include:

- Audiogram demonstrating hearing loss
- Certification from a physician or audiologist
- SSI/SSDI documentation related to hearing loss
- DeafBlind verification

If formal documentation is not available at the time of application, ODHH may approve provisional eligibility based on functional communication needs and available verification. Acceptable forms of provisional verification may include:

- Self-attestation indicating hearing loss that impacts the ability to hear alerts or alarms
- Verification of communication barriers observed during the assessment process by ODHH staff or the Delaware State Fire Marshal
- Referral, confirmation, or supporting documentation from a community partner, service provider, educational institution, or agency familiar with the applicant's communication needs

For life-safety equipment, including fire and carbon monoxide alerting systems, eligibility determinations may be based on functional communication needs identified during assessment to prevent delays in access to critical safety equipment.

ODHH reserves the right to request additional documentation when eligibility cannot be reasonably determined or when required for program administration.

4.3 Income

Fire and carbon monoxide alert devices are provided at no cost to eligible applicants.

No cost-share, co-payment, or reimbursement is required.

4.4 Additional Requirements

A home assessment **MUST** be completed before installation.

All equipment provided under the Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program (AEP) must be approved, procured, and distributed by the Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) through authorized program vendors and installed by the Delaware State Fire Marshal.

ODHH does not reimburse applicants or clients for fire or carbon monoxide alert devices that were independently purchased, installed, or obtained outside the Accessibility Equipment Program process, including devices acquired prior to application, prior to eligibility approval, or prior to program implementation.

SECTION 5 – COVERED FIRE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALERT DEVICES

All fire and carbon monoxide alert equipment must be approved by the Delaware State Fire Marshal and comply with Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations and applicable building codes.

Covered devices should explicitly include:

- Smoke alarms with visual (strobe) alerting
- Carbon monoxide alarms with visual and/or tactile alerting
- Combination of smoke/carbon monoxide alert devices
- Bed shakers and tactile alert receivers
- Interconnected transmitters and notification modules
- Additional alert notification devices, including but not limited to pagers, alarm clocks with visual (strobe) and/or tactile alerting, and similar equipment when used as part of an accessible alert notification system supporting emergency alerts for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals

All equipment must be:

- Approved by the Delaware State Fire Marshal
 - Provided by an OMB-approved vendor
 - UL listed
 - NFPA compliant
-

SECTION 6 – HOME ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

All home assessments shall be conducted exclusively by the Delaware State Fire Marshal. Assessments by ODHH staff, vendors, or applicants are not permitted.

A home assessment is required to evaluate:

- Number of bedrooms
 - Location of sleeping areas
 - Household layout
 - Smoke detector placement
 - Power outlet availability
 - Need for bed shakers or multiple receivers
 - Existing smoke alarm systems
 - Compatibility with interconnected devices
 - Number of Deaf or Hard of Hearing residents in the household
 - Bedroom assignment for each Deaf or Hard of Hearing resident
 - Requirement that each bedroom occupied by a Deaf or Hard of Hearing resident be equipped with an independent visual and/or tactile alerting device
 - Presence of fuel-burning appliances, attached garages, or other carbon monoxide risk factors
 - Equipment type, quantity, and placement shall be determined by the Delaware State Fire Marshal based on assessment findings and applicable fire safety standards.
-

SECTION 7 – INSTALLATION

7.1 Installer Qualifications

Installation of fire and carbon monoxide alert systems shall be performed only by the Delaware State Fire Marshal. No other installers or vendors are authorized to install equipment under this policy.

7.2 Installation Standards

Under this policy, the Delaware State Fire Marshal is responsible for installing, testing, verifying, and

signing off on all fire and carbon monoxide alert systems. The Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing maintains official program records, distributes finalized installation documentation, and coordinates the provision of ASL interpreters as needed to ensure communication access during installation and training.

7.3 Installation Location

Installation of rental properties may be subject to property owner approval where required.

Minimum requirements:

- One visual or tactile alert system in primary sleeping area
- Additional devices as needed based on assessment
- Living area coverage as required

SECTION 8 – CLIENT TRAINING

Fire safety education and system operation training shall be provided by the Delaware State Fire Marshal at the time of installation.

The Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is responsible solely for coordinating communication access, including the provision of qualified ASL interpreters when required.

Printed instructions and vendor materials must be provided.

SECTION 9 – REPLACEMENT & RENEWAL

Fire and carbon monoxide alert devices are eligible for replacement:

- Based on manufacturer-specified expiration dates for smoke or carbon monoxide components, or every five (5) years, whichever occurs first.
- In cases of manufacturer recall
- If device fails due to non-client-related issues
- After fire damage

Lost, stolen, or intentionally damaged equipment may require:

- Written explanation
- Police report (if applicable)

SECTION 10 – DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Required documentation includes:

- Completed Fire & Carbon Monoxide application
 - Eligibility verification
 - Home assessment form
 - Installer's verification form
 - Serial numbers for all components
 - Client acknowledgment
 - Vendor records
 - Photo documentation (if required by Fire Marshal)
 - Fire Marshal forms are the primary installation record
 - ODHH retains copies for Fire & Carbon Monoxide compliance
-



SECTION 11 – VENDOR REQUIREMENTS

Vendors participating in the Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program shall:

- Supply only equipment approved by the Delaware State Fire Marshal and compliant with Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations
- Be pre-approved by ODHH
- Be listed on the State of Delaware OMB-approved vendor list
- Maintain a current and valid business license applicable to the products and services being provided
- Maintain a current Certificate of Insurance meeting applicable State of Delaware requirements and provide documentation upon request
- Provide only equipment meeting NFPA, UL, and manufacturer standards
- Supply warranties and product instructions
- Report all serial numbers to ODHH
- Notify ODHH of discontinued models, recalls, safety notices, or product changes that may affect program participants

SECTION 12 – DENIALS & APPEALS

An applicant may be denied for:

- Incomplete documentation
- Ineligible residency or income
- Refusal of home assessment
- Safety concerns preventing installation
- Misuse of previously issued equipment

Applicants may submit a written appeal within thirty (30) days of the denial decision.

SECTION 13 – APPROVAL

Document Information

Version: 2.0

Status: Final

Effective Date: March 2026

Approved By: *Elisha Jenkins*

Elisha Jenkins, Director

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Date: 09/04/2026