



Fire and Carbon Monoxide Device Program

One-Page Executive Summary

Purpose.

The Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Program is a life-safety initiative administered by the Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) under House Bill 53 (HB53). The program provides accessible fire and carbon monoxide alerting equipment at no cost to eligible Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, and DeafBlind Delaware residents who may not perceive standard audible alarms.

Program Overview.

Standard smoke and carbon monoxide alarms rely on audible alerts, which may be ineffective for individuals with hearing loss—particularly during sleep. This program ensures eligible households receive appropriate visual and/or tactile alerting devices, including fire alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, combination units, and related visual or tactile alerting components approved by the Delaware State Fire Marshal and compliant with applicable fire safety codes. The program operates statewide and supports equitable access to essential fire and carbon monoxide safety measures across housing types, subject to applicable installation requirements.

Governance & Roles. Program authority, eligibility, and scope are established in the Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alert Device Policy, with operational coordination guided by the ODHH Internal Procedure. ODHH serves as the program administrator, responsible for coordination, communication access (including interpreter services), recordkeeping, and oversight. The Delaware State Fire Marshal serves as the technical and safety authority, conducting home assessments, determining equipment type and placement, performing installation, and providing fire safety education and system operation training. This separation of responsibilities ensures safety determinations remain with the appropriate authority while accessibility and coordination are centrally managed.

Operations & Planning. ODHH coordinates intake, communication access, and referrals, while the Delaware State Fire Marshal conducts home assessments, determines equipment type, quantity, and placement, completes installation, and provides fire safety education. Planning timelines represent estimated ranges and may vary based on capacity, housing access, interpreter availability, and equipment supply; referral to assessment generally occurs within approximately 2–4 weeks, with installation typically completed within 2–6 weeks following assessment.

Funding, Sustainability & Oversight. The program is structured to deliver services at no cost to participants. Funding supports approved equipment, installation and fire safety education coordinated through the Delaware State Fire Marshal, interpreter coordination, and administrative oversight. Sustainability is supported through standardized processes, interagency coordination, and ongoing monitoring of program demand. Program performance is tracked through indicators such as households served, completed installations, geographic distribution, communication access coordination, and equipment tracking.
