



FIRE PREVENTION MANUAL

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

**407.014 EXTERIOR AUDIBLE AND VISUAL
NOTIFICATION APPLIANCES**

EFFECTIVE: MAY 2016

SCOPE

This policy clarifies the Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department) requirements for the installation of exterior audible and visual notification appliances within the City of Fresno and contract service areas. These requirements apply to both required and voluntary systems.

PURPOSE

This policy has been established to provide direction for the requirements for the installation of exterior audible and visual notification appliances.

BACKGROUND

As noted in the *California Fire Code (CFC)*, the fire code official has the authority to formulate policies they deem necessary based upon local conditions related to fire alarm installations.

As noted in the *CFC* Chapter 9, public and common use areas require audible and visible notification. Public and common use areas include exterior locations, such as decks, rooftops, sidewalks and other similar areas. These areas may also be used for dining and similar activities subject to the City's outdoor dining ordinance.

These areas may not possess traditional exit components and the occupants located within them may be situated in such a way as to impair egress from within a building. These locations may also be constructed of materials that are not of sufficient method or work, quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability or safety, and traditional fire extinguishing systems are not typically extended to these locations.

Finally, code commentary is clear that the intent of the public and common use requirements is to replicate the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act - Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities.

REQUIREMENTS

Based upon the need for uniformity in application across the Department's diverse service delivery area, and after careful deliberation, the Department has determined the following:

Where a building fire alarm is installed and there are exterior public and common use areas where the occupants are provided with seating, audible and visible notification appliances shall be extended to each exterior public or common use area.

Exception:

Existing, previously approved building fire alarm systems do not require exterior audible and visible alarm notification appliances to be retroactively installed, except where the fire alarm system is upgraded or replaced, or a new fire alarm system is installed.

REFERENCES

California Fire Code