



PREVENTION MANUAL

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

407.1 FIRE ALARM (PARTIAL) SYSTEM

EFFECTIVE: NOVEMBER 2008

SCOPE

Voluntarily installed and/or other partial fire alarm systems.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline requirements for fire alarm system installations that are not required by the California Fire Code or the California Building Code, or which are provided as alternate, equivalent fire protection or other, non-compliant, approved installations of partial fire alarm systems.

DEFINITIONS

Compartment: A space within a building enclosed on all sides with walls and/or doors.

REQUIREMENTS

Normal plan submittal and permit requirements are necessary for all fire alarm system installations and alterations per applicable fire department policy.

All components of voluntary, partial, alternate - equivalent (AE), or other non-compliant, approved fire alarm systems shall be listed with the California State Fire Marshal.

All wiring methods and materials shall be in accordance with the currently adopted National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards 70 and 72.

Minimum requirements include the following:

Where a partial system is installed, each compartment where fire alarm system equipment, devices or components are located shall be in compliance with NFPA 72.

Smoke and Heat Detection. Where provided, smoke and/or heat detectors shall be installed in accordance with the listing manufacturer's installation standards and NFPA 72 spacing requirements

Manual Pull Boxes. Where automatic detection is provided, at least one manual pull box is required. It shall be located in an approved location which is provided with automatic detection along the normal route of exit travel.

Notification Appliances. Where provided, notification appliances shall be provided and located in the compartment per NFPA 72. Other approved locations may be permitted if the protected area is not normally occupied per NFPA 72.

Fire Sprinklered Buildings. Water flow switch activation of the fire alarm system is required. If there are multiple FACU's, they shall interface, and one shall be designated as the master FACU in accordance with NFPA 72.

The plans for partial fire alarm systems may be approved with the following plan notes:

1. This system is approved as "partial" only and is not in full compliance with NFPA 72.
2. This system does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
3. The installer shall provide a permanent sign on the fire alarm control unit stating, "Partial coverage fire alarm system. Not in full compliance with NFPA 72."

The installer shall provide the partial system letter of understanding (FPD-F-26) signed by the system owner/lessee and the designer prior to issuance of the permit.