



PREVENTION MANUAL

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

407.3 MANUAL PULL BOX PROTECTIVE COVERS

EFFECTIVE: NOVEMBER 2008

SCOPE

Manual pull box protective covers with or without a local alarm.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline fire department policy related to protective covers on manual pull boxes.

BACKGROUND

Concern has been expressed about allowing the use of pull box protective covers with warning horns (i.e., Stopper II, U.L. listed but not California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) approved). The CSFM objection to the devices is the warning horn may make people believe they have activated the fire alarm system when they have only lifted the protective cover. As recognized by the California Fire Code (CFC) and CSFM, pull boxes may be eliminated in most occupancies when they are fully sprinklered and water flow initiates the notification devices.

REQUIREMENTS

The California Fire Code specifically permits manual pull box protective covers without local alarm signals to be permitted by the fire code official to mitigate false and malicious alarms. The Fresno City Fire Department allows manual pull box protective covers without local alarm signals in any occupancy (whether required or not) if the building is equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

Protective covers with local alarm signals may only be installed when approved by the Fire Marshal (or designee). The site emergency plan shall include staff requirements; including recorded training on the use of manual pull box protective covers. Staff at any site must be trained in the use of whatever type and configuration of fire alarm system is present in the building.