



EDEN PRAIRIE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department of Fire Prevention Policy



Prevention and Inspections Fire Alarm Systems and Devices

Policy #: 2.2.24

First Issued: June, 2016

Revision: September, 2020

Procedure:

Section 1 – Applicable Codes

- a) Minnesota State Fire Code
- b) NPFA 72

Section 2 – General Considerations

- a) All fire alarm systems shall be installed in accordance to the Minnesota State Fire Code and NPFA 72.
- a) Fire alarm systems in occupancies in which they are not required are not allowed.
 - a. Exception: existing non-required and partial systems are allowed but cannot automatically dial the fire department for automatic dispatch.
 - i. This includes residential fire alarm systems.
- b) Any fire alarm system in operation shall be brought to the most current code standard in any case where the building is remodeled or undergoes a change in occupancy.
- c) Addressable fire alarm systems shall be accompanied with addressable dialers.
 - a. Exception: existing systems without addressable dialers can remain. However, any change to the fire alarm system redacts this exception.
- d) Occupancies that do not require fire sprinkler systems, but have installed other fire protection systems, such as (but not limited to) kitchen hood suppression, shall have installed a fire alarm system. Such system shall provide general evacuation notification to all occupants and send an alarm signal to a Central Station Monitoring Center for Fire Department dispatch.
 - a. Exception: alarm notification is not required in bathrooms as long as the alarm can be easily distinguishable in that space.

Section 3 – Dialing Devices

- a) Cellular dialing devices are allowed as a primary means of dialer communication.
 - a. However, signal strength and connection verification must be provided to the fire department before installation can take place.
 - b. Signal weakness or unreliability may result in the prohibition of the cellular dialer.
 - c. Cellular (or any dialer) that reports connection issues on a regular basis may be ordered removed and replaced.
- b) Fire alarm systems may operate using sole path communications.
 - a. However, as stated above, any signal weakness, unreliability, or loss of communication on a regular basis may result in the prohibition of the dialer in use or may require the addition of a secondary, separate means of communication.



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Section 4 – Initiation Devices

- a) A smoke detector must be installed within 10 feet (when applicable) of the FACP.
- b) A manual pull station must be installed at the FACP.

Section 5 – Notification Devices

- a) All buildings/tenant spaces are required to have installed at least one horn/strobe when notification is not required by Code.
- b) Activation of the fire alarm system shall sound a general evacuation signal.
- c) Strobes shall remain active when the fire alarm system is “silenced” when applicable.
- d) Horn decibel ratings must never surpass 110 or 15 decibels greater than ambient; whichever is lowest.

Section 6 – Alarm Signals

- a) Alarm signal identification must be clear and accurate.
- b) Examples:
 - a. Waterflow – Wet
 - b. Waterflow – Dry
 - c. Waterflow - Kitchen
 - d. Fire Alarm – Smoke
 - e. Fire Alarm - Heat
 - f. Fire Alarm – Pull Station
- c) Do not include “Zone #” or other non-essential information.

Section 7 – Appeals

- a) Appeals or request to amend this Statement of Policy should be made directly to the Department of Fire Prevention. At any time, a Fire Code Official, as appointed by the Fire Chief, holds the right to amend or approve variances to this policy.
- b) The Department of Fire Prevention can be contacted by calling 952-949-8556 or via email at firecode@edenprairie.org.