

City of Minneapolis Fire Department



Fire Prevention Bureau

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David Dewall, Fire Marshal
(612) 673-3270

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Upgrading Existing Life Safety Systems

District 1 Inspector
(Highrise)
(612) 673-2515

District 2 Inspector
(South and West)
(612) 673-3249

District 3 Inspector
(South and East)
(612) 673-3248

District 4 Inspector
(North and Northeast)
(612) 673-2624

District 4 Inspector
(West of Central)
(612) 673-3472

Fire Alarms
(612) 673-3271

Hazardous Materials
(612) 673-3273

Plan Review
(612) 673-3292

Sprinklers
(612) 673-3273

General

1. Existing systems are to be maintained and are not required to be upgraded or replaced unless they are determined to be a distinct hazard.

Exceptions:

- a. A change of occupancy in the building that requires a new certificate of occupancy. All systems are required to meet the requirements of the present building code.
 - b. Fire detection and alarm systems are to be upgraded to "compliant systems" when 50 % of the alarm panel components must be replaced (when fire detectors are replaced that are not compatible with the existing panel; a new panel, cross listed with the detectors, must be installed. This also triggers an upgrade). Existing detectors may continue to be used if they are compatible with the new panel. Existing wiring may continue to be used.
 - c. Office and residential buildings that presently do not have systems, and are required to have systems, are to have "compliant systems" installed.
2. Compliant detection and notification systems include all of the following and are defined as:
 - a. Fire detection: Heat or smoke detectors in storage, mechanical, electrical and communication rooms. **Exception:** Areas protected by sprinklers.
 - b. Strobe lights: In common use areas and handicapped dwelling units.

(1) Residential buildings also require smoke detectors in hallways and corridors.
Exception: Buildings protected throughout by sprinklers.

High-rise Buildings

- c. Alarm notification: voice communication speakers in common areas, elevators, elevator lobbies, stairways, dwelling units, and tenant spaces that exceed 1,000 sq. feet in area. The alarm tone is to be audible in all areas of the building.



Where audible appliances are installed to provide signals for sleeping areas, they shall have a sound level of at least 15 dBA above the average ambient sound level or 5 dBA above the maximum sound level having a duration of at least 60 seconds or a sound level of at least 70 dBA, which ever is greater, measured at the pillow level in the occupiable area. If any barrier, such as a door, curtain, or retractable partition, is located between the notification appliance and the pillow, the sound pressure level shall be measured with the barrier placed between the appliances and the pillow.

- d. Fire-fighter communication phone system: Phone jacks at each floor level landing in each exit stairs, in each elevator car, in each elevator lobby, fire pump room and emergency power rooms.
- e. The above systems are to be supplied by emergency and standby power.