



CITY OF
SANTA ROSA

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**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

SUBJECT: SIMULTANEOUS FIRE ALARM WARNING FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED

Bulletin Number: 030

Date of Issue: April 1, 1996

Code Reference:

1994 Uniform Fire Code (UFC) Article 14

1994 Uniform Building Code (UFC) Chapter 31

Santa Rosa City Code 18-44

NOTE: This bulletin is a summary of Fire Department interpretations of City and Information contained herein applies to typical instances and may not address all circumstances.

Every fire alarm system installed after January 1, 1989, shall be designed so that all occupants of the building may be warned simultaneously. In addition to devices which sound the alarm, visible devices designed to emit a flashing or stroboscopic light signal to alert hearing impaired persons shall be installed throughout the building. The visible signaling devices shall utilize a strobe light of xenon design with a flash rate of not less than 60 flashes per minute nor more than 120 flashes per minute and a minimum visual intensity of 100 candela, as tested and labeled in accordance with ANSI/UL standard 1638, and as provided by NFPA 72G, sections 2-2.3, 3-2.4.1.3 and 10-1.

PLAN SUBMITTALS

All specifications, devices, wiring etc. to be supplied in conformance with general requirements under plan submittals. (See attached)

- a. Provide additional specifications on the light signal power draw.
- b. Proof of compatibility with panel including wiring diagram for light signals.
- c. Adequate (provide calculations) battery backup to operate light signals on D/C power.
- d. All signal devices shall include the words "Fire" or "Fire Alarm" or appropriate designator on the light cover or device that indicates this is an evacuation/fire alarm. The light signal shall be emitted through a clear lens.

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- e. Provide floor plans showing unit locations, number of units for total installation, listing and specifications etc.
- f. Where fire alarm systems are installed in conjunction with sprinkler systems, sprinkler discharge or flow shall also activate the fire alarm, for notification purposes.

REQUIREMENTS

FLASHING OF STROBOSCOPIC LIGHTS SHALL BE PROVIDED IN THE FOLLOWING:

Hotels/Motels

10% of all guest rooms in addition to those required to be handicapped accessible. The handicapped accessible rooms shall also be provided with light signaling devices.

EXAMPLE: 50-room motel (2 rooms required to be handicapped accessible)

(10% of 50 rooms = 5) + (2 rooms handicapped accessible) = 7

A total of seven (7) rooms would be required to be provided with light signaling devices for the deaf.

- a. Lights shall be visible from any point in the room including restrooms that are accessible from guest rooms. Suite type guest rooms shall be equipped with light signaling devices sufficient to be seen in all areas of the unit.
- b. Light signals shall be provided in all common corridors. Distance between lights shall be in conformance with manufacturers specifications to provide visual notification throughout the required exit corridors.
- c. Light signals shall also be provided in:
 - 1. Common restrooms.
 - 2. Assembly areas where a fire alarm is required.
 - 3. Main lobby/check-in area.
- d. A sign shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the main desk or other similar station in letters one inch in height, on contrasting background, stating, "rooms with fire alarms for the deaf and hearing impaired available upon request".
- e. Single station smoke detectors powered by building wiring shall also be equipped with strobe devices in units where hearing impaired requirements apply.

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2. Apartment Houses - (Condos, Townhouses where applicable):

10% of the total apartment units (minimum of one (1) for complexes with 3-9 units) in the building or complex in addition those specified as handicapped accessible. The handicapped accessible rooms shall also be provided with light signaling devices.

EXAMPLE:

Four (4) unit Condo complexes - Minimum of one unit to be provided with light signaling devices as defined.

75 unit apartment complex (2 units required to be handicapped accessible).

$(10\% \times 75 \text{ units} = 7) + (2 \text{ units handicapped accessible}) = 9$. Total of 9 units to be provided with light signaling devices.

- a. In each sleeping/bedroom.
- b. In each hallway to which bedrooms are accessible.
- c. Common (Interior) corridors.
- d. Assembly areas, lounges, recreation rooms, laundry rooms, that require alarm systems.
- e. In two-story apartment/townhouse units the light signaling devices shall also be installed on the lower floor for notification purposes.
- f. Single station smoke detectors powered by building wiring shall also be equipped with strobe devices in units where hearing impaired requirements apply.

3. Public Assembly Areas - (where a fire alarm is required)

- a. Common corridors.
- b. Common restrooms.
- c. Provide documentation that in large assembly areas adequate light signals are visible from any point in the room in accordance with manufacturers listing(s).

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4. All other fire alarm applications

In all other buildings where fire alarms are required light signals shall also be in conformance with manufacturers listing(s) and Fire Department standards.

- a. Smoke alarms systems in accordance with Section 1005.7 Exception 5.
- b. Hospitals, care facilities, rest homes that are classified in accordance with UBC class I-1, I-2.
- c. Detention facilities.
- d. Private schools where fire alarms are required.
- e. Large and small family day care and pre-school/day-centers are specifically exempted.

Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 543-3500 for questions or clarification.