



CITY OF  
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**INFORMATION BULLETIN  
FIRE ALARM SYSTEM POWER SUPPLIES**

**SUBJECT: FIRE ALARM SYSTEM POWER SUPPLIES**

**Bulletin Number:** 040

**Date of Issue:** March 21, 1997

**Code Reference:**

NFPA 72

NFPA 70; National Electrical Code

Santa Rosa City Code 18-44

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

Fire alarm systems shall be provided with at least two (2) independent and reliable power supplies, one primary and one secondary (standby), each of which shall be of adequate capacity to operate the system. Exceptions to this basic requirement permit a single primary source without a standby supply under certain specific conditions. See NFPA 72, Section 1-5.2.3.

The primary supply shall be either a light and power service arranged in accordance with NFPA 72, Sect. 1-5.2.8, or an engine-driven generator or equivalent arranged in accordance with NFPA 72, Sect. 1-5.2.10.

Connections to a light and power service shall be on a dedicated branch circuit or at the main service entrance installed in accordance with NFPA 70, Sections 230-42, 230-79, 230-82, 230-94, and 240-21(a) or 240-21(b). The circuit and the connections shall be mechanically protected.

**CIRCUIT DISCONNECT**

Circuit disconnecting means shall be in a separate, locked cabinet, accessible only to authorized personnel with a red marking and clearly identified as "**FIRE ALARM CIRCUIT CONTROL.**" The location of the circuit disconnecting means shall be permanently identified at the fire alarm control unit.

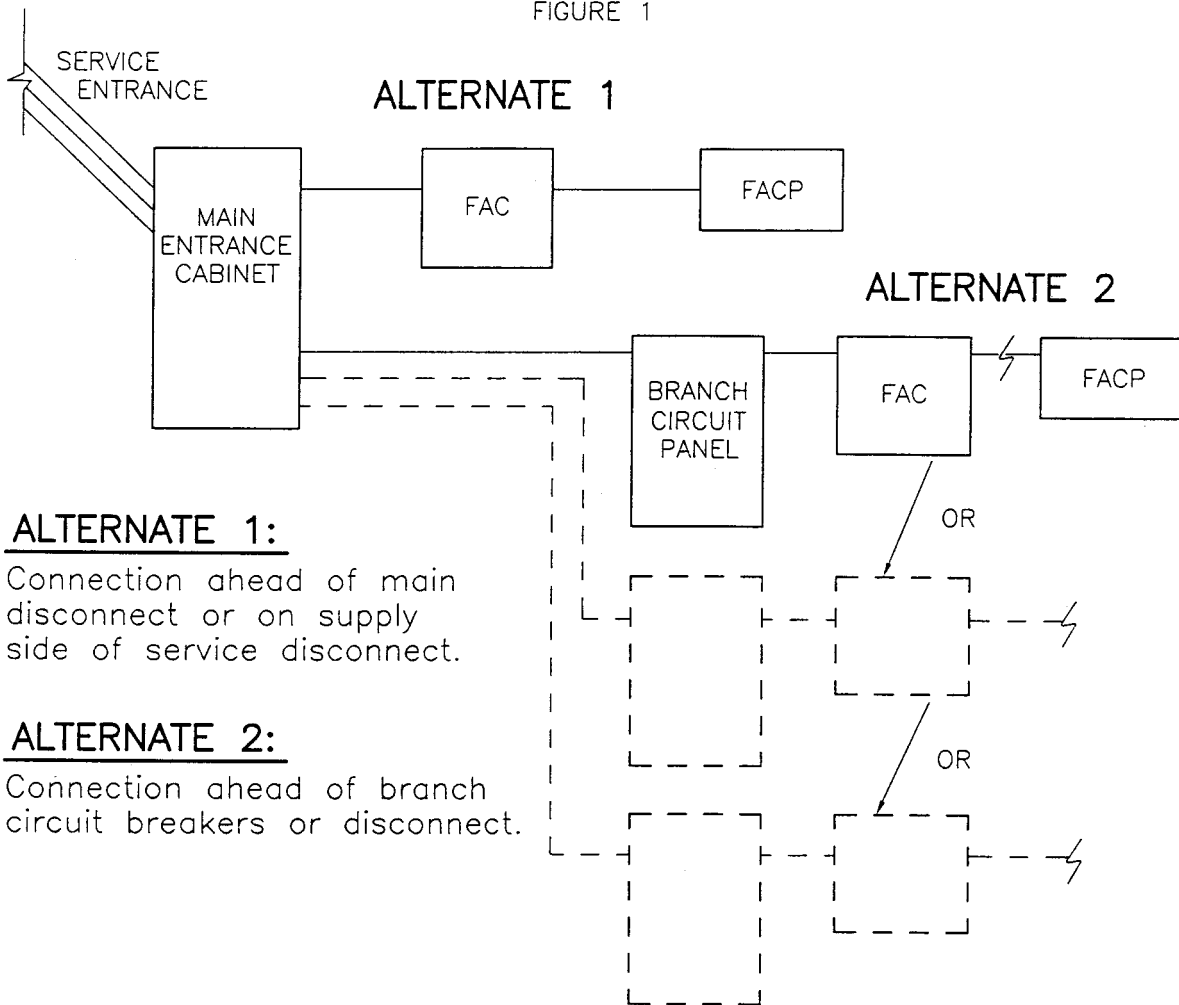
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**OVER CURRENT PROTECTION**

An over current protective device of suitable current carrying capacity and capable of interrupting the maximum short-circuit current to which it may be subject shall be provided in each ungrounded conductor. The over current device shall be in an enclosed, locked or sealed cabinet located immediately adjacent to the point of connection to the light and power conductors. "Immediately adjacent" means within 10 ft to 25 ft when installed as described in NEC Sections 240-21(a) or 240-21(b). The cabinet may be the same one described above for the circuit disconnect. See Figure 1 (next page) included with this Information Bulletin for a line diagram of acceptable power and light service arrangements.

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FIGURE 1



**ALTERNATE 1:**

Connection ahead of main disconnect or on supply side of service disconnect.

**ALTERNATE 2:**

Connection ahead of branch circuit breakers or disconnect.

**FIRE ALARM CABINET (FAC)**

1. Rated for service entrance duty.
2. Installed per NEC (NFPA70) Sections 230-42; 230-79; 230-82; and 230-94; 240-21(a) or 240-21(b).
3. Provided with fire alarm disconnect and overcurrent device.
4. Locked.
5. Painted red and identified as "FIRE ALARM CIRCUIT CONTROL".

**FIRE ALARM CONTROL PANEL (FACP)**

1. Location of the circuit disconnecting means shall be permanently identified at the FACP.