

**MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY # 2 – 2
EXISTING LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS REQUIRED UPGRADING**

Original Issue 10-21-04

Last Revision 9-19-07

Page 1 of 1

ISSUE:

When are existing fire safety systems required to be upgraded?

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

The MSFC requires life safety systems to be maintained. The MSBC requires systems to meet the requirements of the present building code when there is a change of occupancy type. Sprinkler systems are to be upgraded when the use of the building changes to a higher hazard group.

PROBLEM:

The replacement of components in fire alarm or communications systems can create a hybrid system that may not be as reliable as the original system.

ACCEPTABLE MEANS of COMPLIANCE:

A. Fire sprinkler, fire suppression systems, smoke control systems, etc.

- The systems are to be upgraded to meet or exceed the hazard level of the use of the building or building area.

B. Fire Detection, Alarm and Communication Systems:

- Fire alarm and communication systems are to be upgraded to “compliant systems” when 50% or more of the alarm panel components must be replaced.
- Fire detectors are to be compatible with the panel, when the installation of new detectors requires the installation of a new panel the entire system is to be upgraded to a “compliant system”.
- Existing wiring, in good condition, may continue in use.
- Existing detectors may continue in use if they are compatible with the new alarm panel.
- Upgraded systems are to have detection, annunciation and alarm notification devices as required for new systems.
- Emergency and/or standby power is to be provided as part of the upgrade when required for new systems.
- Alarm system upgrades in high-rise buildings require the installation of a Firefighter communications phone system.