

**MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY # 9-11
CERTIFIED FIRE ALARM SYSTEM**

Original Issue 3-6-07

Last Revision

Page 1 of 2

ISSUE:

Describe the fire alarm system that may be considered to provide an alternative level of protection for some fire code requirements.

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

The fire code acknowledges that there can be more than one means of complying with specific fire code requirements. The code allows the use of alternative methods and materials provided that the alternatives provide an equivalent level of protection.

PROBLEM:

A standard fire alarm and detection system which is not monitored by a central station may not be properly maintained.

ACCEPTABLE MEANS of COMPLIANCE:

- A. When specifically approved by the Fire Prevention Bureau a “Certified Fire Alarm System” may be considered as a means of complying with specific fire code requirements.
- B. Definition: “CERTIFIED FIRE ALARM SYSTEM” is a fire detection and alarm notification system that consists of the following:
1. Smoke detectors in corridors and common areas.
 2. Heat detectors in mechanical, electrical, furnace, storage, laundry rooms, etc.
 3. Alarm notification devices located as required by NFPA #72 and audible throughout the building.
 4. The system shall be a U. L. Certified Fire Alarm System.
 5. The system shall be monitored by a U. L. Listed Central Station.
 6. A contract with a central station for “Central Station Service” shall be maintained in force.
- C. Maintenance, Testing and Inspection:
The building owner shall submit copies of the Central Station Contract and annual test / inspection report annually to the Fire Prevention Bureau.

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D. Specific Additional Requirements:

- 1. When the system is used in lieu of fire rated interior shaftways:
Rate of rise heat detectors shall be installed within the shaftways and on the occupied side of all non-rated openings into the shaftway.**
- 2. When the system is used in lieu of fire rating of exit stairs: Smoke detectors shall be installed under each floor level landing and at the top of the stairshaft (Exception: Rate of rise heat detectors may be installed under stairs where temperatures are expected to be lower than 32 degrees F). Manual pull stations shall be installed in each dwelling unit within 5 feet of each exit door.**