



INTERPRETATIONS & PROCEDURES

FIRE PEVENTION DIVISION

SUBJECT: Positive Alarm Sequence		CODE SECTION(S): NFPA 72-10 Section 23.8.1.3
ISSUED BY		
NAME: Ken Carlson	SIGNATURE:	ISSUE DATE: March 1, 2013
TITLE: Fire Marshal		NUMBER: 2013-2

ATTACHMENTS

NFPA 72-10, Section 23.8.1.3

SUPERSEDES 2007-3

ISSUE / QUESTION:

What criteria does the Bellevue Fire Department utilize when considering approval of a Positive Alarm Sequence account?

DISCUSSION:

Use of positive alarm sequence may be approved on a case by case basis for large assembly occupancies where significant impact may result from activation of the building alarm. The impacts may include potential for injury to occupants from a large scale evacuation and/or significant disruption to an event, including resulting financial impact.

Eligible Structures (all 4 conditions must exist)

1. Buildings protected throughout with automatic sprinklers
2. Buildings where the fire alarm panel is at a constantly attended location (24/7) on the premises or other nearby locations subject to the approval of the Fire Chief
3. Buildings where staff have a demonstrated level of competency in the operation of:
 - a. Fire Alarm System
 - b. Fire Sprinkler System
 - c. Evacuation procedures
4. Buildings that can demonstrate the ability of normal on duty staff to routinely investigate alarms anywhere in the building within 180 seconds of alarm activation (this will normally exclude high rise buildings).

"The Bellevue Fire Department exists to assist the public in the protection of life and property by minimizing the impact of fire, medical emergencies, and potential disasters or uncontrolled events that affect the community and environment."

Conditions of Approval:

1. The fire alarm system must:
 - Utilize addressable devices.
 - Manual pull stations and detectors (heat or smoke) are the only devices allowed to initiate positive alarm sequence.
 - Include an intelligible voice messaging system
 - Be in a high state of readiness, free of trouble alarms.
 - Have the ability to remove the PAS feature
2. Sprinkler water flow, range hood suppression, and other suppression systems must put the system directly into alarm when activated.
3. Alarm verification shall be allowed in conjunction with PAS.
4. Initiation of a PAS sequence through activation of a pull alarm or smoke detector shall not activate the fire alarm and alarm signals if the trained personnel acknowledged the alarm at the control panel within 15 seconds. This acknowledgement shall not interrupt the dispatching of emergency response units. If a second automatic fire detector selected for PAS is actuated during the investigation phase, all normal building and remote signals shall be activated immediately and automatically.
5. The person who investigates the PAS condition shall be someone other than the attendant and that person shall have a means of direct communication with the attendant.
6. The constantly attended location shall have a means to manually activate the fire alarm system. The means shall override PAS and all building and remote signals shall be activated immediately and automatically.
7. Any fire event, even if the event does not result in building alarm activation, shall be reported to the Fire Department.
8. An Operational Permit must be obtained and renewed annually

Suspension or Revocation:

Operational Permit required to operate a PAS Account shall be revoked for the following:

- Failure to adhere to the conditions of approval.
- Failure to obtain required permits and/or inspections.
- Egress violations (examples would include: block or impaired exits, improper locks or latches on doors, inadequate illumination)
- Ongoing impairments to any fire protection system
 - Lack of records:
 - Confidence test reports
 - Training
 - System modification

A Building Owner may petition for reinstatement of PAS Account privilege after correcting deficiencies in system readiness, training of personnel and/or staffing deficiencies.

23.8.1.3 Positive Alarm Sequence.

23.8.1.3.1 Systems that have positive alarm features complying with 23.8.1.3 shall be permitted if approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

23.8.1.3.1.1 The positive alarm sequence operation shall comply with the following:

- (1) To initiate the positive alarm sequence operation, the signal from an automatic fire detection device selected for positive alarm sequence operation shall be acknowledged at the fire alarm control unit by trained personnel within 15 seconds of annunciation.
- (2) If the signal is not acknowledged within 15 seconds, notification signals in accordance with the building evacuation or relocation plan and remote signals shall be automatically and immediately activated.
- (3) If the positive alarm sequence operation is initiated in accordance with 23.8.1.3.1.1(1), trained personnel shall have an alarm investigation phase of up to 180 seconds to evaluate the fire condition and reset the system.
- (4) If the system is not reset during the alarm investigation phase, notification signals in accordance with the building evacuation or relocation plan and remote signals shall be automatically and immediately activated.
- (5) If a second automatic fire detector selected for positive alarm sequence is actuated during the alarm investigation phase, notification signals in accordance with the building evacuation or relocation plan and remote signals shall be automatically and immediately activated.
- (6) * If any other fire alarm initiating device is actuated, notification signals in accordance with the building evacuation or relocation plan and remote signals shall be automatically and immediately activated.

*A.23.8.1.3.1.1(6) "Immediately activated" means there are no delays imposed by the system other than the processing of the signal in accordance with 23.8.1.1.

23.8.1.3.1.2* The system shall provide means for bypassing the positive alarm sequence.

*A.23.8.1.3.1.2 The bypass means is intended to enable automatic or manual day, night, and weekend operation.