

Requirements for Use of Monitored Fire Alarm Systems

Monitored fire alarm systems are required in the following situations:

- Clubs, theaters, auditoriums, conference venues and other places of assembly (Group A occupancies) where the authorized occupant load exceeds 300 persons (1997 SFC 1007.2.2.1).
- High rise buildings (seven or more stories in height), including office, mercantile and residential occupancies (SFC 193).
- Congregate residences of 10 or fewer people, including single family homes. (Group R, Division 3 occupancies) where monitored fire alarms are required because of inadequate water flow to hydrants or sprinkler systems or inadequate Fire Department access (SFD Administrative Rule 9.1).
- Hazardous materials emergency alarm systems required by SFC 8003.1.16.
- Any occupancy with a fire sprinkler system consisting of more than 100 sprinkler heads, or more than 20 heads in institutional occupancies (Group I Division 1.1 and 1.2) (SBC 904.3.1). NOTE: With the adoption of the new 2003 International Fire Code, projected to occur in July of 2004, this requirement will be modified to include *all* occupancy's with sprinkler systems consisting of more than 20 heads.
- Daycares located on the third floor or higher of a building (DPD Director's Rule 20-889).

All references are based on the current 1997 Seattle Fire Code (SFC) or Seattle Building Code (SBC). *Occupancy* is the type of use for which a particular building or space is permitted to be used. Occupancy classifications are determined by the Department of Planning and Development (formerly the Department of Construction and Land Use). Alarm requirements found in the SFC depend on the current occupancy classification of a space, and the year in which that occupancy classification was established.

An individual smoke or heat detector connected to a property (burglary) or panic/robbery alarm system is not considered to be a fire alarm system within the scope of the Alarm System Monitoring Law. These are most commonly found in single-family residences and small commercial buildings.