



April 2, 2021

RE: Fire Alarm Plans and Specifications

Dear Owner and/or Contractor:

The Walla Walla Fire Department (WWFD) would like to make you aware of requirements for all new installations, existing system upgrades, and modifications of required and non-required life safety systems.

DESIGN

IFC 907.11 Design Review

All construction documents shall be reviewed and stamped by a person certified as a NICET III in fire alarms or a WA licensed Fire Protection Engineer (FPE).

NFPA 72 Requires Designers and Installers to show evidence yearly of qualifications or certification.

IFC Design standards. Manual, automatic fire alarm, and water flow notification systems, single station smoke detectors, emergency voice alarm communication systems and notification devices shall be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with **2018 IFC Chapter 9 Section 907, Washington State Amendments, and IFC Referenced NFPA 72**. The Fire Prevention office will work diligently to answer any questions that may arise.

NFPA 72 Requires fire alarm systems employing automatic fire detectors or water-flow detection devices to be equipped with *one fire alarm pull box* to initiate a fire alarm signal. This fire alarm pull box shall be located in a central and most likely occupied location approved by the Chief.

IFC Monitoring. When the fire alarm system is required, it shall transmit the buildings address and all general fire, water flow, supervisory, and trouble alarms to a UL listed central station to be relayed to property representatives.

All valves controlling the water supply for automatic sprinkler systems, pumps, tanks, water levels and temperatures, critical air pressures and water-flow switches on all sprinkler systems shall be electrically supervised.

Only the building name & address, general fire, and general water flow alarm are required to be relayed to City of Walla Walla emergency dispatch.

IFC Alarm notification appliances. Alarm notification appliances shall be provided and shall be listed for their purpose. All buildings equipped with a fire alarm system shall have all public and common areas adequately covered with approved horn strobes. (Spacing of devices to meet NFPA 72 specifications.) **NFPA 72** requires three-pulse temporal pattern on all audible fire alarms.

Remote enunciator must be:

- Enabled by key only.
- Capable of identifying device activation specific location (addressable)
- Capable of silencing and resetting the fire alarm system.
- Located by a front entrance approved by the WWFD.
- Mounted with the display window 60 to 64 inches from the floor.

All reviewed plans are subject to field inspection for final acceptance.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Fire Protection Permit: Per City Ordinance No. 2003-43 Subsection 15.04.010(G) a permit is required for the installation, alteration, or repairing of fire protection and/or fire detection equipment. All applications, submittals and fees will be processed through the Walla Walla Development Services office. The Walla Walla Fire Department will issue a permit once submittal requirements are met and the review process is completed.

At the Walla Walla Fire Departments discretion, complete or partial plans and specifications for fire alarm systems shall be submitted to the City of Walla Walla for review. Deviation from approved plans will require notification.

Plans and specifications for fire alarm systems shall include, but not be limited to:

- \$ Floor plan which includes the use of all rooms. (Provide Graph Scale).
- \$ Detail of ceiling height and construction
- \$ Location of all alarm-initiating and alarm-signaling devices.
- \$ Alarm control and trouble signaling equipment.
- \$ Annunciation
- \$ Power connection
- \$ Battery calculations.
- \$ Conductor type and sizes.
- \$ Voltage drop calculations.
- \$ A complete list of fire safety control functions (smoke dampers, smoke removal, fire doors, etc.)
- \$ Manufacturer model numbers and listing information for all equipment, devices and materials.

IFC 105.4.4 Approved documents. Construction documents approved by the fire code official are approved with the intent that such construction documents comply in all respects with this code. Review and approval by the fire code official shall not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of compliance with this code.

A copy of your WASHINGTON STATE L&I ELECTRICAL PERMIT

One copy of shop drawings & component specifications must be submitted electronically in PDF format.

Electronic formatted submittals may be delivered on CD or E-mailed to permits@wallawallawa.gov

Application, Plans, Updates and Fees must be received at:

Walla Walla Development Services
55 E Moore Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 524-4710
permits@wallawallawa.gov

- Subject line on the Email should indicate property address and that it is a “Fire Alarm Application”
(170 N Wilbur / Fire Alarm Application)
- Application will not be processed until Review Payment is received.
- Payment can be in person with cash, check, by mailing a check, or VISA, Master Card, Discover Card.
- Once review is complete Permit Fee will be due.

It is strongly recommended that plans be submitted a minimum of two weeks before the desired return date.

INSTALLATION / MODIFICATION

Work on system may not start until a permit is issued by the WWFD.

IFC Section 901.7 Systems out of service. Requires when a building is protected by fire-protection systems such systems shall be maintained and operational at all times during alteration. When alteration requires modification of a portion of a fire protection system, the remainder of the system shall be kept in service. When it is necessary to shut down the entire system, a fire watch shall be kept on site until the system is returned to service. WWFD's shift captain of the day (527-4429 ext 5) must be notified prior to system shut down and after the system is restored.

ACCEPTANCE TESTING

Inspection request line: 509 524 4422 or wwfdinspect@wallawallawa.gov

IFC 901.5 Installation acceptance testing: All fire alarm systems and other fire-protection systems and appurtenances thereto shall meet the approval of the WWFD as to installation and location. The system shall be subject to a 100% system acceptance test as required by the Fire Chief.

NFPA 72 Re-acceptance test shall be performed after system components are added or deleted; after any modification, repair, or adjustment to system hardware or wiring; or after any change to software. All components, circuits, system operations, or software functions known to be affected by the change or identified by a means that indicates the system operational changes shall be 100% tested. In addition, 10% of initiating devices that are not directly affected by the change, up to a maximum of 50 devices, shall also be tested and proper system operation verified.

§ Fire alarm and detection systems shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 72.

§ Before requesting final approval of the installation, notice shall be provided to the WWFD Prevention Office stating the entire system has been fully tested by installer. All alarm system components shall be tested as per manufacturer recommendations for alarm acceptance testing. The preferred method will be artificial smoke for smoke detectors and heat for heat detectors. Canned smoke must be alarm manufacturer specified.

§ 24 hours prior notice is required to establish acceptance test date and time.

§ Two persons with radios shall be provided by installer to perform the test.

§ Walk test is NOT allowed.

The above referenced IFC and NFPA standards, as well as the Walla Walla Fire Department procedures and requirements, are provided to assist you with any new installation or modifications to existing life safety systems. Any code references left out of this letter does not negate the requirements of the code.

If you have any questions please call the Prevention Office at the numbers listed below,

Respectfully,

Tim Thompson, Fire Fighter / Inspector
City of Walla Walla Fire Department
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