



Automatic Fire Alarm Association, Inc.

PO Box 1569

Jasper, GA 30143

678-454-FIRE (3473)/678-454-3474 Fax

fire-alarm@afaa.org/www.afaa.org

The Automatic Fire Alarm Association, working with the numerous other organizations, has been able to have a significant impact on the requirements for fire protection in the building, fire, mechanical and residential codes developed since 1987.

The following are examples of our involvement:

NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm & Signaling Code -

1. Adding specific minimum audibility requirements for audible notification appliances.
2. Establishing mounting requirements for manual fire alarm boxes and that they must be red.
3. Prohibiting the use of presignal systems unless approved by the AHJ.
4. Establishing specific zoning requirements.
5. Requiring visible notification appliances if the ambient noise level exceeds 105 dBA.
6. Requiring a single manual pull station when automatic devices are connected to a fire alarm system, even when there is a sprinkler exception to remove the stations.
7. Record of Completion required for all fire alarm systems.
8. Elimination of the sprinkler exception for the smoke detector protection of the control equipment in IBC, IFC, NFPA 72, NFPA 101/5000.
9. Adding beam detectors as an option to spot-type detectors on the ceiling to activate atrium smoke control systems.
10. Supervisory signal required for duct smoke detectors if it goes to a constantly attended location.
11. Alarm, supervisory and trouble signals shall be distinctly different and automatically transmitted to a supervisory station or a constantly attended location.

Building, Fire and/or Life Safety Code (IBC/IFC/NFPA 1/NFPA 101)

1. Requiring electrical supervision and off-premises monitoring for most fire alarm and sprinkler systems.
2. Requiring single-and multiple-station smoke alarms in all residential occupancies and sleeping areas of Board and Care Facilities, Half-way Houses, Group Homes, Social Rehabilitation Facilities, Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Centers, and Convalescent Facilities.
3. Requiring an automatic fire detection system in all transient, institutional, airport traffic control towers and special amusement occupancies.
4. Requiring a fire alarm system in the following occupancies: all educational; business with more than three stories; all institutional; all transient; all residential four or more stories; special amusement buildings; and underground structures.
5. Emergency voice/alarm communications systems required in: highrise buildings; special amusement buildings; underground buildings where the lowest level is more than 60 feet below the lowest level of exit discharge; in Group A, E or M occupancies with an atrium connecting more than two stories; covered mall buildings exceeding 50,000 sq. ft.; Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 1,000 or more; and Group M occupancies with an occupant load of 500 or more, or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge.

6. Requiring emergency voice/alarm communications systems in underground facilities, buildings with atriums connecting more than two stories in assembly, mercantile and educational occupancies.
7. Requiring a single manual pull station when automatic devices are connected to a fire alarm system, even when there is a sprinkler exception to remove the stations.
8. Updating the terminology to be consistent with the referenced standards.
9. All fire alarm systems where required by the code, are required to be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with NFPA 72.
10. Record drawings (as-builts) required for all fire alarm systems.
11. Supervisory signal required for duct smoke detectors if it goes to a constantly attended location.
12. Visible alarm notification appliances not required in exits or stairwells.
13. Automatic fire detectors performing fire safety functions shall be connected to the building fire alarm system and activate the alarm notification appliances or a supervisory signal at a constantly attended location.
14. Where a building fire alarm system is installed, automatic fire extinguishing systems shall be monitored in accordance with NFPA 72.
15. Smoke detector required for protection of control equipment if not installed in a constantly attended area.
16. Elimination of the sprinkler exception for the smoke detector protection of the control equipment in IBC, IFC, NFPA 72, NFPA 101/5000.
17. Requirement for CO detection added in 2012 IBC and IFC.
18. Requirement for Emergency Voice Alarm Communications systems in Group E (Educational Occupancies) in IBC.
19. Requirement for Smoke Detection systems in common areas in dormitories.
20. Changed notification requirement for sprinkler systems when pull stations are eliminated due to a sprinkler exception. Now notification appliances have to activate throughout the occupancy.
21. Increased requirements for PA systems in NFPA 101 to include standby power.
22. Eliminated the sprinkler exception for interior corridor smoke detectors in hotels in IBC.

Not all of the above were AFAA proposals, but AFAA testified in support of them and had an impact in their acceptance. AFAA networks with many other organizations in the codes and standards arena, including the Electronic Security Association (ESA), Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA), National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Fire Suppression Systems Association (FSSA) and many others.

AFAA has over 50 representatives on the following NFPA Technical Committees:

NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code
NFPA 3, Commissioning of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems
NFPA 4, Integrated Testing of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems
NFPA 70, NEC, CMP3
NFPA 72, All Chapters except Public Fire Reporting Systems
NFPA 72 Technical Correlating Committee
NFPA 75, Electronic Computer Systems
NFPA 90A, HVAC systems
NFPA 99, Health Care
NFPA 101, Fundamentals, Building Systems & Fire Protection Equipment, Detention & Correctional Facilities, Health Care, Industrial, Residential
NFPA 170, Fire Protection Symbols
NFPA 551, Fire Risk Assessment
NFPA 720, Carbon Monoxide Detection
NFPA 801, 804, 805 & 806, Fire Protection for Nuclear Facilities
NFPA 909/914, Cultural Resources
NFPA 2001, Gaseous Fire Extinguishing Systems

Other industry involvement

Member – NFPA
Member – ICC
Member - IAFC
ICC Industry Advisory committee
IAFC Fire & Life Safety Section Board of Directors
Participate in IBC, IFC, IRC code meetings
AFAA was an active participant with a group that re-wrote Section 907 of IBC/IFC. Proposal was accepted with very minor changes.