



August 10, 1998

To All Fire Alarm Contractors:

There are several issues that need to be clarified. All fire alarm systems that are required by a provision of the Life Safety Code, City Code (all sprinkler systems) or some other agency (i.e. HRS) or regulation are deemed *Required Fire Alarm Systems*.

### **Testing**

All fire alarm signal systems installed in accordance with NFPA 72 and City Code 7-38 shall be maintained under written service contract providing for regular maintenance and testing of the system. Transmitters shall be tested monthly, and all other devices shall be tested in accordance with SMFR 4A-48, and NFPA 72.

Records of annual inspections shall be written on the (5) page form found in NFPA 72 Figure 7-5.1, pages 111 - 115, or on a substitute form approved by the State Fire Marshall (contact Mike Long at 561-681-6380). Copies of these forms shall be available for inspection on site. A copy of each inspection report shall be forwarded to Boca Raton Fire-Rescue Services Department, Fire & Life Safety Division, 2333 West Glades Road, Boca Raton FL 33431, Attention: Lt. Daryl L. Scott. Defective or non-functioning items discovered during any fire alarm test or inspection shall be reported in writing to Boca Raton Fire-Rescue Services Department within **fifteen (15)** business days from the date the defective or non-functioning item is discovered (FLAS 633.121).

### **UL Certificate Requirements**

A UL Certificate or FM Placard, in accordance with NFPA 72 4-3, shall be issued by the UL Listed or FM Approved prime contractor for all newly installed required fire alarm systems. This regulation shall apply to all newly installed required fire alarm systems with an installation permit issued on or after July 1, 1996. An existing required fire alarm system wherein the control panel and alarm components are to be replaced, shall be considered newly installed for the purposes of this section. The Fire & Life Safety Division shall maintain a listing of local UL Listed or FM Approved prime contractors. Central station service in full compliance with NFPA 72 4-3 shall be maintained at the protected property, so long as the requirement for the fire alarm system exists.

At this time there are many outstanding alarm systems that some companies have not had the UL Certificate applied for. With this notice each company is receiving a list of all UL systems that have been permitted from their company and have yet to be certified. Some of these systems may still be under construction, while others are lacking the UL Certificate. Those companies with the missing UL Certificates will receive a notice of violation stating which certificates are outstanding. If these certificates are not applied for within thirty (30) days of this notice, this will be turned over to code enforcement which can impose fines of up to \$250.00 a day for each violation, and revoking that companies City License.

When a final acceptance test is conducted on a new alarm system, a copy of the application for a UL Certificate shall be provided to the fire inspector with the FC number that is issued from UL. If this is not present on the application the alarm final will fail until this is obtained.

### Disposition of Signals and Repair Requests

All required fire alarm systems shall be provided central station service in full compliance with NFPA 72 4-3, so long as the requirement exists for the fire alarm system. This is for all required alarm systems, both UL certificated and non-UL certified accounts.

Alarm Signals (NFPA 72 4-3.6.1.1) - The central station shall immediately retransmit alarm signals to Boca Raton Fire Dispatch (NFPA 72 A-4-3.6.1.1 (a) "Use of the term "immediately" in this context is intended to mean without unreasonable delay. Routine handling should take a maximum of **90 seconds** from receipt of an alarm signal by the central station until the initiation of retransmission to the public fire service communication center." (b) "Dispatch a runner or technician to the protected premises to arrive within 1 hour after receipt of signal when equipment needs to be manually reset by the prime contractor."

Supervisory/Tamper Signals (NFPA 72 4-3.6.1.3) - The central station shall notify the subscriber and dispatch a runner (arrival time not to exceed 1 hour) to investigate. Fire Dispatch is **ONLY** to be called if all central station runners are busy.

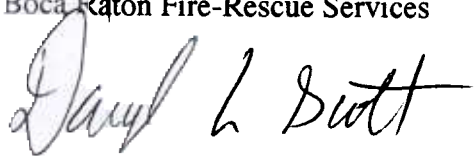
Trouble Signals (NFPA 72 4-3.6.1.4). The central station shall notify the subscriber and dispatch a runner to arrive within four hours to initiate maintenance. NOTE: Undefined signals received at the central station and STUs that go non-responding shall be treated as trouble signals, **NOT** alarm signals.

Necessary repairs shall commence within four hours after notification of a need for service by Boca Raton Fire Dispatch. (NFPA 1, NFPA 72 4-3.6.1.4, Boca Raton Codes)

### Enforcement

If any of the above mentioned items are continued to be violated, this will be turned over to code enforcement which can impose fines of up to \$250.00 a day for each violation, and revoking that companies City License.

Sincerely,  
Boca Raton Fire-Rescue Services



Daryl L. Scott, Lieutenant  
Fire & Life Safety Division