

# **FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS AND DOCUMENTATIONS**



**MHCEA**

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**<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/programs-services/Pages/health-care-inspection.aspx>**



# FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS



*Early warning plays a key role in a healthcare facility's ability to safely evacuate its residents during a fire emergency.*



# FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS



## Fire Alarm system

- Annual testing report (K052) see 1999 NFPA 72 –7-5.2.2 and figure 7 7-5.2.2

## D.A.C.T ~~monthly~~ *quarterly* testing (K052)\*

- You can record this on your fire drill report
- Have a separate record
- 2000 NFPA 101 – 9.6.1.4 and 1999 NFPA 72 7 7-3.2.1



# FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS



On 5/15/14 at 11:20 am, review of the documents titled "Fire Drill Report" for the last 12 months revealed that the transmission of the fire alarm signal to the monitoring company was not being tested when silent fire drills were being conducted on the night shifts between the hours of 9:00 pm and 6:00 am.



# FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS



*But you (CMS) said....*

## Quarterly Testing

- Off-premises transmission equipment
  - This testing can be done as part of the fire drills if receipt of the fire alarm signal is verified and documented

*\*(excerpt from CMS presentation 2010)\**



# FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS



## Fire Alarm System Annual Testing

- The fire alarm system and its ancillary components
- The annual testing should also look at any electromechanical release devices
  - Door hold open devices
  - Magnetic door latches



# FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS



## Fire Alarm System Sensitivity Testing

- Shall be checked within one year of installation and every alternating year thereafter
- Increased to a maximum of 5 year duration\*
- The detector sensitivity shall not be tested or measured using any device administering an unmeasured concentration of smoke



# Fire Alarm Documentation



## How Long to Keep Fire Alarm Records

- NFPA 72 (99) states until the next test and every year thereafter

- *BUT* -

- The more restrictive directive is that records need to be kept for 3 years and 2 test cycles\*





# Fire Alarm Documentation



## Know Your Fire Alarm Documentation

- Review the test documentation
- Look for errors
- Ensure that the documentation meets the minimum requirements of NFPA 72 (99) 7-5.2
- The minimum required information is available on the NFPA 72 (99) sample form



# INSPECTION TRENDS



- Inconsistencies with documentation\*
- Missing documents
- Missing DACT tests\*
- DACT testing not being documented correctly\*
- Sensitivity test not supplying test parameters and the detectors reading\*



# THINGS TO REMEMBER



## Points to Remember:

- Annual means 365 days
- Know your system
- If it is not documented it did not happen
- Make sure that you have a sensitivity printout with data values



# FINAL THOUGHT



*As a result, a lot is riding on your fire alarm system's ability to operate and function properly.*

