

Fire Alarm:

A fire alarm system is a specialized system and requires knowledge and experience to properly design, install, inspect, and maintain. Only those individuals properly trained, educated, and experienced shall work on these systems.

New Systems or Modifications

Before fire alarm systems in certain facilities can be installed or modified, plans must be submitted to the OSFM for approval. These facilities include:

- Educational: USD's, private schools, preschools, daycare and childcare centers, and Board of Regents universities.
- Healthcare: hospitals, adult care facilities, nursing homes, ambulatory care centers, and residential board and care facilities.
- Correction and detention

The submitted plans shall comply with standards set forth by the OSFM and shall include a copy of equipment cut sheets and floor diagrams. These should show the placement of detectors, fire alarm control panels, pull stations, annunciation devices, and other components. Specification sheets and any other information relevant to the fire alarm or smoke detection system should also be included.

The plans must be stamped by a physical engineer or a Kansas-licensed engineer with knowledge in fire alarm systems.

The design, installation, modification, inspection, and maintenance of fire alarm systems shall comply with all requirements of the applicable nationally promulgated codes and standards, regardless of whether or not the OSFM required a plan or whether or not plan approval was given by any jurisdiction, including the OSFM.

Existing Systems:

Existing systems shall be maintained according to the applicable codes and standards. The edition of the standard may vary by occupancy type as shown below:

- Federal Healthcare: NFPA 72, 2010
- All other occupancies: NFPA 72, 2007

It is extremely important for facility owners and operators to be knowledgeable in their specific fire alarm system as well as ensuring they are utilizing good, qualified individuals to work on and maintain the system. At a minimum, the facility owner and operator must be able to recognize when the system is impaired, how to perform a basic reset, and when to call for service.

Here is an abbreviated list of fire alarm system requirements. You will need to obtain a copy of NFPA 72 (2013) to see the complete list of inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements.

Weekly

Visual inspection of panel for trouble signal

All staff should be trained to recognize alarm trouble signals as part of a continual monitoring.

Quarterly

Visual inspection of all sprinkler devices connected: water flow and tamper valve switches.

Semiannual

Test of sprinkler waterflow switches *

Test of sprinkler valve tamper switches *

Visual inspection of lead-acid battery

Test batteries

Annual

Important: The annual inspection documentation must meet the minimum documentation requirements as outlined in NFPA 72.

Test and visual inspection of panel

Test panel battery charger

Battery discharge test

Test and visual inspection of horns, strobes, chimes, bells, etc.

Test and visual inspection of smoke, heat, and duct detectors

Test and visual inspection of electromechanical releasing devices

Test and visual inspection of voice evacuation equipment Other

Replace panel batteries every 4 yrs. or per manufacturer recommendations.

Sensitivity testing of smoke detectors **

* This may already be done as part of the inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements of the sprinkler system

** See NFPA code for timeframe requirement