



Letter from the City of Vancouver to Fire Alarm Monitoring Companies

Fire alarm signal verification – Effective July 19, 2017

For the purposes of reducing false alarm responses in our community, the Vancouver Fire Marshal hereby requires monitoring stations to utilize up to 90 seconds to attempt verification of automatic fire alarm signals in accordance with NFPA 72, 2016 edition section 26.2.2 (and subsequent editions).

All signals shall be monitored by an approved monitoring agency. Waterflow signals shall be transmitted immediately to Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA 911). For all other signals, the approved monitoring agency shall take up to 90 seconds to call the monitored site and confirm that this is a true emergency. If contact cannot be made or confirmation cannot be received within the 90 seconds, CRESA shall be notified immediately thereafter.

Alarm Signal Verification per NFPA 72

Supervising station personnel shall attempt to verify alarm signals prior to reporting them to the communication center (In Vancouver this is the CRESA 911 dispatch center) where all the following conditions exist:

- Documentation of the requirement for alarm signal verification is provided by the responsible fire department to the supervising station and the protected premises.
- If the requirement for verification changes, the responsible fire department shall notify the supervising station and the protected premises.
- *The verification process does not take longer than 90 seconds from the time the alarm signal is received at the supervising station until the time that retransmission of the verified alarm signal is initiated.
- Verification of a true fire is received from anyone on premises or verification of an unwanted alarm signal is received only from a pre-assigned list of authorized personnel within the protected premises.
- *Verified alarm signals are immediately retransmitted to the communications center and include information that the signal was verified at the protected premises to be an emergency.
- *Alarm signals where verification is not conclusive are immediately retransmitted to the communications center.
- *Alarm signals that are verified as unwanted alarms shall be reported to the responsible fire department in a manner and at a frequency specified by the responsible fire department. VFD requires reporting of all verified unwanted alarms as they occur: email vanfmo@cityofvancouver.us

Heidi Scarpelli, Vancouver Fire Marshal