

FIRE ALARM GUIDELINES FOR EXISTING R-1 OCCUPANCIES
Kitsap County & the Cities of Port Orchard & Poulsbo

The following guidelines have been established by consensus between the Kitsap County Fire Marshal's Office, Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue, Kitsap County Fire District No. 7 and the Cities of Port Orchard and Poulsbo. These guidelines were developed with the understanding that unique conditions in buildings may require special consideration by the authority having jurisdiction.

Single-station smoke detectors: Level I, II and III buildings require listed, photoelectric detection devices in all sleeping areas. Detection devices shall sense visible or invisible particles of combustion.

Manual fire alarm pull stations: Listed manual fire alarm pull stations are required in Level II and Level III buildings. At least one manual pull station needs to be provided in each stairwell and is to be located at the common egress level from the building. Concurrent with the stairwell requirement, there is to be a manual fire alarm pull station located not more than one-hundred and fifty (150) feet of actual travel distance from any apartment door front.

Heat detectors: Listed heat detectors are required in every apartment in a Level III building. The recommended location of the heat detector is the kitchen area, however an alternate area may be used when approved by the authority having jurisdiction. The heat detector is to be system-compatible and shall be of a fixed-temperature type with a 135⁰F temperature rating. *Exception: No heat detector is required in buildings which are protected throughout by an automatic fire sprinkler system which is designed in accordance with NFPA 13 or NFPA 13-R.*

Alarm Indicating Devices: Listed audible and visual alarm devices are required for Level II and Level III buildings. A strobe device, listed for outdoor use, with a 110 candela output shall be located on the street side of the building in the immediate location of the building address numerals. Audible devices shall be provided and located such that audibility of the alarm signal at the exterior of every apartment front door is not less than 90 dbA where an electronic horn is used or 85 dbA where an electric bell is used. As this is a performance-based standard for design, it shall be incumbent upon the fire alarm system contractor to use calibrated sound measurement equipment to verify that this requirement is complied with.

Zoning Arrangement: Zoning of the alarm system(s) will be determined by the authority having jurisdiction.

Monitoring: Level III buildings will require active monitoring by a U.L.-listed central monitoring station. At least one owner-provided telephone line shall be connected to a digital alarm communicator transmitter (DACT) when such equipment is used.

Standby battery calculations: Fire alarm systems in Level II and Level III buildings shall have standby battery capacity provided which is capable of operating the system in normal mode for 24 hours and, at the end of that period, is capable of operating all alarm notification appliances used for evacuation or to direct aid to the location of an emergency for 5 minutes.

Fire Alarm Control Panel location: The fire alarm control panel location shall be determined by the authority having jurisdiction.

Washington State Dept. of Labor and Industries- Electrical Permit: These special guidelines and the local ordinance do not exempt the fire alarm system installer from the requirement to obtain a valid permit from the Electrical Inspection Division of the State of Washington Department of Labor and Industries or, where applicable, from a municipality's Electrical Inspection department. The fire alarm installer shall be responsible for obtaining all inspections and approvals from the electrical inspection authority.

Signage: Level II buildings do not require off-premises monitoring of the fire alarm system. To ensure that a fire alarm signal is transmitted by telephone to 911, permanent and durable signage (metal, rigid plastic or other approved material) shall be provided adjacent to manual pull stations indicating "IN THE EVENT OF FIRE, PULL THIS STATION AND THEN CALL 911 FROM A SAFE LOCATION".