
FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION

**Interpretation by the
Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission**

Title: Visible Alarm Notification Systems in I-3 occupancies.

Date: February 8, 2018

Purpose: The purpose of this non-rule policy is to clarify whether, pursuant to the 2014 Indiana Fire Code (IFC) and the 2014 Indiana Building Code (IBC), visible alarm notification appliances are required in the “day rooms” of I-3 occupancies.

Background: The 2014 IFC and the 2014 IBC address the topic of visible alarm notification appliances in I-3 occupancies as follows: Section 907.2.6, of both the 2014 IFC and 2014 IBC, provides that a manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in Group I occupancies. However, according to exception 2 of section 907.2.6, occupant notification systems are not required to be activated where private mode signaling installed in accordance with NFPA 72 is approved by the fire code official. Additionally, pursuant to section 907.2.6.3 of both the 2014 IFC and the 2014 IBC, group I-3 occupancies shall be equipped with a manual fire alarm system and automatic smoke detection system installed for alerting staff, and, pursuant to section 907.5.2.3.1 of both the 2014 IFC and 2014 IBC, visible alarm notification appliances are required to be provided in public and common areas.

Interpretation: The Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission hereby interprets the above code sections as follows:

1. When applying exception 2 of section 907.2.6, fire code official approval shall be granted if private mode signaling is installed in accordance with NFPA 72-2010; and
2. Visible alarm notification appliances are not required to be placed in “day rooms” of jails or prisons as “day rooms” are not common areas or public areas as referenced in section 907.5.2.3.1, nor are the appliances necessary for purposes of alerting staff as required by section 907.2.6.3.

Robin Nicoson, Chairman
Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission