



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

TENTATIVE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect

Approved by: H. "Butch" Browning, Fire Marshal

Date: February, 2009

Re: **Cable Digital Voice/Fire Alarm System Monitoring**

Communication networking technologies and equipment are changing in a manner which requires this office to question compliance with NFPA 72, the National Fire Alarm Code.

In particular, we have been asked to evaluate the appropriateness of Cable Digital Voice (CDV) Systems which accommodate off site monitoring/supervision of fire alarms systems. The NFPA 72 code committee currently interprets the code as allowing only Public Service Telephone Network and copper based Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) wiring. Apparently this issue is scheduled for discussions and a general membership vote at the June 2009 code committee meeting. Any resultant code modifications will be published in the 2010 edition of NFPA 72.

This office recognizes the need for a reliable method of transmitting supervisory signals regardless of the technologies used, but typically adheres strictly to all NFPA determinations and code mandates. This office also observes that CDV Technologies are becoming more attractive to consumers and their use is very popular.

The NFPA 101 Life Safety Code requires fire protection features that will provide a minimum acceptable level of safety. The features required by the code may be altered, substituted, or omitted, if proposed features can be determined by this office to provide a level of safety equivalent to that required by the code.

After a review of the information provided, this office determines that as an interim measure,

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OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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until NFPA specifically addresses this issue, CVD Systems will be allowed for providing network links between a fire alarm system subject to the following provisions:

1. Optionally, these systems may incorporate listed devices which conform to current code requirements by compensating for potential networking problems an IP Dact device may be used(TCP – I P equipment, standard internet protocol).
2. As an equivalency to compliance with NFPA 864 (other technologies) you will monitor reliability as required by NFPA 72:8.6.3.2.1 and provide secondary means of backup communications as required by NFPA 72:8.6.3.2.1.4. **(This memo as well as additional noted information can also be found on our website at www.lasfm.org)**
3. This determination applies to both existing and new installations.

c: OSF District Inspection Offices
LAFAA
Certified Fire Alarm System Personnel