

July 30, 2001

Mr. Scott Colby, President
Louisiana Burglar & Fire Alarm Association
100 Beauvais Avenue, Suite A-2
Lafayette, LA 70507

Re: **Remote Station Personnel**

Dear Mr. Colby:

This office is in receipt of your May 2, 2001, letter in which you have addressed your concerns about the requirement in NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, (1999 edition) that mandates a minimum of two operators at a remote station monitoring facility:

“72:5-4.5.1 The remote supervising station shall have sufficient personnel, but not less than two persons, on duty at the remote supervising station at all times to ensure disposition of signals in accordance with the requirements of 5-4.6.”

You have also expressed concerns about this office's position pertaining to this requirement, specifically *Interpretive Memorandum 2001-2*, where this office stipulates that remote station facilities that monitor fire alarm systems that are mandated by NFPA 101 (2000 edition) Life Safety Code to have emergency forces notification or a “supervised automatic sprinkler system,” to have a minimum of two operators.

Your letter fully details the “typical” operations of a “typical” remote station monitoring facility concerning the procedures that pertain to the protocol of receiving various fire alarm signalings. Your letter has caused this office to reconsider its position on this issue as follows.

All remote station facilities monitoring fire alarm systems in the State of Louisiana after July 1, 2001, can comply with the requirements of 2001-2 or the monitoring facility can appeal the requirements of NFPA 72:5-4.5.1 and document their procedures concerning one operator handling the various fire alarm signals, specifically if the dispatcher needs to go to the restroom or any other similar situation (i.e., similar to how you outlined the typical operation of a small monitoring facility in your letter). Please note that if a monitoring facility wishes to pursue the appeal process, then each facility shall submit an application for appeal with the appropriate fee and documentation. Each facility shall be handled on a case-by-case basis and shall be evaluated based on their documentation.

If you should have further questions or need additional clarifications, please feel free to contact this office,

Sincerely,

V. J. Bella,
State Fire Marshal

VJB:MLM:tm

cc: Mark Gates
Michael McLean
Felicia Cooper
Fidel Fremin