



**NASSAU COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**

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FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN

November 29, 2017

To: NCFM – Licensed Fire Alarm and Smoke Detection System Contractors, Installers and Central Station Monitoring Services

From: Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Michael F. Uttaro - muttaro@nassaucountyny.gov

Re: Fire Alarm Transmission Paths

All **New** and **Existing** Fire Alarm and Smoke Detection Systems shall be monitored by an approved supervising central station as per the 2015 Building Code of New York State, Section 907.6.6 and the 2015 Fire Code of New York State, Section 907.6.6. These shall be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 72 - National Fire Alarm Code 2013 Edition.

- NFPA 72 now permits a **single transmission** path to a supervised location. This communication path must be supervised at an interval of not more than 60 minutes. A failure of the path must be annunciated at the supervising station and the protected premise within not more than 60 minutes.
 - Acceptable transmission methods include:
 - Transmitters using IP (Internet Protocol)
 - IP transmission over the public open Internet or over private IP facilities maintained by an organization for its own use
 - Transmitters using various (non-dialup) digital cellular technology
 - Listed equipment using alternate communications methods that provide a level of reliability and supervision consistent with the requirements of NFPA 72 Chapter 10 and the intended level of protection.

When considering a fire alarm system utilizing a single communication path to the supervising station, consideration should be given to the risk exposure that results from the loss of that path for any period of time and for any reason.

- A system employing a DACT (commonly known as a POTS line) shall employ **one** telephone line (number). In addition, a second transmission means shall be employed. A single POTS line is not acceptable as a sole transmission path.

NFPA 72-2013 Section 26.6.3.2.1.4 Transmission Channels.

(A) A system employing a DACT shall employ one telephone line (number). In addition, one of the following transmission means shall be employed:

- (1) One-way private radio alarm system
- (2) Two-way RF multiplex system
- (3) Transmission means complying with 26.6.3.1

- Where **multiple transmission paths** are utilized to monitor Fire Alarm and Smoke Detection Systems, each path must be monitored within not more than 6 hours. A failure of any path of a multipath system must be annunciated at the supervising station and the protected premise within not more than 6 hours.