



NASSAU COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

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Chief Fire Marshal
Scott D. Tusa

FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN

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To: Nassau County Fire Departments, Town / City / Village Building Departments, Business and Property Owners, and NYS Licensed Alarm Contractors

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

In an effort to reduce fire department responses to alarms caused by non-fire conditions or events, the Nassau County Fire Marshal permits fire detection and alarm systems to be programmed with alarm verification. When enabled, this feature will permit the smoke detector to sense a minor transient change without initiating an alarm on the system. In conjunction with proper device placement and proper system maintenance, this feature will continue to provide required life safety protection without un-warranted activations.

Definitions

Alarm Verification. A feature of automatic fire detection and alarm systems to reduce unwanted alarms wherein smoke detectors confirm alarm conditions within a given time period after being reset, in order to be accepted as a valid alarm initiation signal.

Cross Zoning. A feature of automatic fire detection and alarm systems requiring the operation of two automatic initiating devices to indicate an alarm and initiate an alarm condition.

A smoke and fire detecting system shall be permitted to have alarm verification installed. In the event a single sensor activates, an alarm verification message will be displayed at the FACP. The device will then automatically reset. The system will then remain in the verification mode for a period not to exceed 30 seconds. If the sensor activates within this period, a system alarm will occur. If no activation occurs within this period, the system will return to normal condition.

Alarm verification shall not be permitted using cross zoning, or by the use of multi-criteria detectors (combination smoke, heat, or carbon monoxide detectors) that require multiple sensor activations to indicate an alarm condition.

Smoke sensors in multi-criteria detectors shall be tested without placing the device in test mode and shall be tested using canned aerosol simulated smoke prior to carbon monoxide testing. Multi-criteria detectors that require smoke sensors to be placed into test mode for testing are not acceptable for use within Nassau County.

Current examples of prohibited multi-criteria detectors are the Silent Knight SK-FIRE-CO and the Fire-Lite SD365CO.