


# CITY OF BLACK HAWK FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

## 23-2 Field Services Informational Bulletin

### Fire Alarm Initiating Device and Sequence Programming

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Fire Marshal

## Fire Alarm System Initiating Device and Sequence Programming

### Purpose

The purpose of this information bulletin is to establish the recommended programming of initiating devices for a fire alarm systems in accordance with the International Fire Code (IFC) and the adopted National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (NFPA 72).

### Scope

The Black Hawk Fire Department has determined that there are existing fire alarm systems within the jurisdiction where initiating devices have been programmed in excess of what is required by code. It has also been determined that alternate sequence of operations for larger establishments, as permitted by NFPA 72, have not been utilized.

### Recommendations and Requirements

In an effort to reduce the high volume of nuisance alarm responses and the associated fees charged to the property for this type of response, the following is recommended to remedy the ongoing issue:

1. A licensed fire alarm contractor and/or licensed fire protection engineer (FPE) can conduct an analysis of the fire alarm system to determine programming compliance of initiating devices or recommend an alternative sequence provided by the adopted codes such as Positive Alarm Sequence in accordance with §23.8.1.2 of NFPA 72, or provide other code compliant recommendations. (See attachment for Positive Alarm Sequence of operations.)
2. If it is determined that re-programming is appropriate, the following documentation is required:
  - A detailed scope of work report or existing plan with a revised sequence of operations submitted for review and associated fees paid.
  - If an alternate signaling sequence is requested, the report shall include an approved SOP for fire alarm response procedures and verification of trained personnel in accordance with §23.8.1.2 of NFPA 72.
  - The alarm response SOP and verification of personnel training shall be included with the property's Emergency Preparedness Plan to be reviewed annually by the Black Hawk Fire Department.
3. A final system function test is required. The inspection **will not** be conducted if any of the following conditions exist for the system:
  - Any portion of the system is on fire watch.
  - The system service tags and/or the Compliance Engine reports show unresolved system deficiencies.
  - There are unresolved deficiencies in the annual fire/life safety inspection report.
  - The fire alarm panel is showing trouble and/or supervisory signals.

## Example of Positive Alarm Sequence

