

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS



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Installation and/or changes to fire alarm systems require that plans be submitted by a State-licensed fire protection contractor and a permit obtained prior to starting work. Penalties for non-compliance with this requirement will entail triple or quadruple permitting fees. Normal plan review time is 7-10 working days. Make sure you plan ahead and get your plans in early.

The Arlington Fire Department amendments to the 2009 International Fire Code are available on the City of Arlington web site www.ci.arlington.tx.us/fire. Some of the local requirements regarding fire alarm systems are outlined below:

1. All fire alarm systems shall be wired Class "A" for all initiating devices with a minimum of six feet separation between supply and return loops. Notification devices may be wired Class "B".
2. The fire alarm control panel shall be installed in an approved location adjacent to the main entrance to the building unless otherwise approved by the Fire Code Official. Annunciators are not an acceptable substitute for this requirement.
3. Fire alarm control panel functions such as silence and reset shall be operable without the use of a key or code. The panel cover may be locked, but the function keys cannot require a key or code.
4. All alarm systems new or replacement serving 50 or more alarm initiating devices shall be addressable fire detection systems. Alarm systems serving more than 75 smoke detectors or more than 200 total fire alarm devices shall be analog intelligent addressable fire detection systems.
5. Existing systems shall be brought up to present code when the total system and/or building remodel or expansion initiated after October 1998 exceeds 30% of the building

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or system. When cumulative building and/or system remodel or expansion exceeds 50%, the building must comply within 18 months of permit application.

6. In hotels and motels, carbon monoxide detectors shall be provided in all locations where there is gas-fired equipment, such as, but not limited to, dryers, HVAC, hot water heaters and fireplaces.

7. Manual pull stations are prohibited in apartment buildings less than 4 stories in height.

8. Alarm Panel and function serviced and tagged once a year.

