



# WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

*Proudly serving the citizens of Lakewood and University Place*

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## **Fire Alarm Installation Requirements in R-2 Occupancies**

According to the International Fire Code, all structures classified as group R-2 occupancy, such as apartment complexes, shall have an automatic or manual fire alarm system installed. This also means that alarms must be installed in existing structures three (3) or more stories above the lowest level of exit discharge or with more than 16 dwelling or sleeping units.

2012 International Fire Code Section 907.2.9 states, all structures classified as group R-2 shall have a manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in group R-2 occupancies where:

- 1. Any dwelling unit or sleeping unit is located three (3) or more stories above the lowest level of exit discharge;*
- 2. Any dwelling unit or sleeping unit is located more than one story below the highest level of exit discharge of exits serving the dwelling unit or sleeping unit; or*
- 3. The building contains more than 16 dwelling units or sleeping units.*

### **Exceptions:**

- 1. A fire alarms system is not required in buildings not more than two (2) stories in height where all dwelling units or sleeping units and contiguous attic and crawl spaces are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least 1-hour fire partition and each dwelling unit or sleeping unit has an exit directly to a public way, egress court or yard.*
- 2. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 and the occupant notification appliances will automatically activate throughout the notification zones upon a sprinkler water flow.*

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3. *A fire alarm system is not required in buildings that do not have interior corridors serving dwelling units and are protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, provided that dwelling units either have a means of egress door opening directly to an exterior exit access that leads directly to the exits or are served by open-ended corridors designed in accordance with Section 1026.6, Exception 4.*

Because of these requirements, your building will need to be brought to code compliance. Fire alarm plans following the 2013 edition of NFPA 72 will need to be submitted for review and acceptance prior to any work being performed.