



Department of Permitting Services Division of Commercial Building Construction

255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

<p>Code/Year/ Section NFPA1, 2015 Sec 11.10 IBC, 2015, Sec 911 as Amended</p>	<p>POLICY Two-Way Radio Communications Enhancement Systems</p>
<p><u>SCOPE</u></p> <p>1.0 This administrative policy shall apply to buildings and structures where a 2-way radio communications enhancement system is being installed, altered, or modified.</p> <p><u>PURPOSE</u></p> <p>2.0 The purpose of this policy is to establish the permitting, inspection and approval process for the installation, modification and/or alteration of two-way radio communications enhancement systems within structures and/or buildings under the permitting and inspection jurisdiction of The Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services. This ensures that approvals and information collection is consistent and readily available for distribution and examination by and from DPS whereas, none existed previously.</p> <p>2.1 A secondary purpose is to allow for the location of these systems to be noted, maintained and records reviewed pertaining to their maintenance, operation and capability by Montgomery County as required by applicable codes and standards.</p> <p><u>DEFINITIONS</u></p> <p>3.0 Two-Way Radio Communications Enhancement Systems- A system or systems designed and installed to allow for the effective use of two-way radio communications by emergency response personnel within and/or around a building or structure which may or may not be required by applicable codes and/or standards and may or may not be installed voluntarily. These systems are often referred to as Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS), Bi-directional Amplification Systems (BDA), In-building Repeater Systems, Fire Department Communications System, Emergency Responder Radio Coverage System, or by other names not mentioned but, designed and installed for the same or similar purposes.</p> <p>3.1 DTS Inspection Approval- An inspection approval of the two-way radio communications enhancement system by a qualified individual acceptable to the Montgomery County Department of Technology Services (DTS) which states that the system has been found in compliance with all applicable codes and standards regarding signal, transmission and system design.</p> <p>3.2 DPS Fire Alarm Final Inspection- An inspection approval of the fire alarm system, including all interfaced and interconnected components including two-way radio communications enhancement systems, performed by a DPS Fire Alarm Inspector or their designee, intended to ensure that the system(s) have been installed in accordance with the approved plans, operates as designed and complies with all applicable codes and standards enforced by the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services.</p> <p>3.3 System Repair- The repair, replacement and/or modification of a fire alarm system or any component connected to that system.</p>	

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<p><u>POLICY</u></p> <p>4.0 Where a two-way radio communications enhancement system is installed, modified and/or altered a fire alarm permit shall be obtained from the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services prior to any work being performed on the system(s). This requirement does not alleviate or supersede the requirement for other permit(s) which may be required by other applicable codes, standards and/or departments.</p> <p>4.1 The DTS Inspection Approval shall be completed and all associated inspection notes, testing data and approval documents shall be maintained on site and available for immediate review at all times after receipt. The DPS Final Fire Alarm Inspection shall not be requested until the system has received DTS Final Inspection Approval and all approval paperwork shall be present. Upon arrival of the DPS Fire Alarm Inspector</p> <p>4.2 Emergency replacement of the two-way radio communications enhancement system shall be accompanied by submittal of a fire alarm permit to DPS not more than 5 business days after work has begun. Where practicable a permit shall be applied for prior to the work commencing.</p> <p>4.3 Where a fire protection agreement or code modification is included as part of the proposed work, the signed agreement and all associated support documentation shall accompany permit application(s) made to DPS.</p> <p>4.4 The repair of fire alarm systems shall not require a permit from DPS however the system shall conform to all applicable codes and or standards.</p> <p>4.5 Where emergency response personnel find a two-way radio communications enhancement system inadequate or, where no system is present, and a complaint is received by DPS this policy shall be applicable in coordination with Montgomery County Executive Regulation # 4-15AMII and NFPA 1, 2015 addressing such systems or the installation thereof.</p>		
Interpretation/Policy No. BC/FPCC: 11-2018	Date: 10-29-2018	Division Chief Hemal Mustafa Steve Thomas