



COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT
Division of the Fire Marshal
Administrative Ruling/Interpretation

Number:	2015-1		
Subject:	Delay in Reporting AC Power Failure		
Reference:	2013 NFPA 72 10.6.9.3		
Effective Date:	9/21/15	Issued By:	FPE Withee
Revision Date:	N/A	Revised By:	N/A
Approval Date:	9/15/15	Approved By:	Brett T. Lacey, Fire Marshal

PURPOSE: To establish a policy in the reporting requirements of trouble signals related to AC Power Failure, particularly in dealing with existing fire alarm systems.

SCOPE: Address conflicts on reporting requirements for existing systems and panels when a new panel is introduced to the system, as well as for new systems.

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE: NFPA 72, Section No.10.6.9.3 states, "Unless prohibited by the authority having jurisdiction, supervising station alarm systems shall be arranged to delay transmission of primary power failure signals for a period ranging from 60 minutes to 180 minutes." This is a change from earlier editions of NFPA 72 that permitted 0 to 6 hours. We have experienced several instances of existing systems undergoing main control panel replacements where sub- or slave panels, having no required delay in reporting an AC Power Failure trouble signal, is overshadowing a delay of the same trouble on a new panel. This introduces a failure point during the inspection.

The purpose of the delay in reporting an AC Power Failure is to prevent the supervising station from being overwhelmed with trouble signals in the event of a widespread power outage. However, CSFD has never implemented directives to assign the delays to particular addresses and has permitted the designers to choose the delays. Most often, a 1 hour delay declared on the plans is accepted and meets minimum codes.

DECISION: Since these signals do not dispatch emergency services, CSFD will no longer enforce the delay in the transmission of a trouble signal associated with AC Power Failure. As long as the signal is processed and reported in accordance with NFPA 72, Section No. 10.15 it will be accepted with or without a delay.

Approved by: