



January 27, 1997

Roy Pollack CCP, President
R.S.P. Security
206 NE 3rd Street
Boynton Beach, FL 33435

Fire Rescue

Chief Herman W Brice

50 S. Military Trail, Suite 101
West Palm Beach, FL 33415-3198
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Dear Mr. Pollack:

On January 17, 1997, I received your letter addressed to Chief Herman Brice. In the referenced letter you requested a Fire Alarm Code interpretation concerning monitoring of household fire alarm systems.

You posed the question, "Are monitoring companies permitted to verify fire alarm signals from single and two family dwellings, or must they immediately notify the fire department without making a verification call."

I refer you to NFPA 72, 1996 ed., section 2-4.9.2, *Exception: The supervising station shall be permitted to contact the residence for verification of an alarm condition and, where acceptable assurance is provided within 90 seconds that the fire service is not needed, retransmission of an alarm to the public service fire communication center shall not be required.* The following are considerations found in the appendix regarding this exception:

- (a) Was the verification call answered at the protected premises?
- (b) Did the respondent provide proper identification?
- (c) Is it necessary for the respondent to identify the cause of the alarm signal?
- (d) Should the public service fire communications center be notified and advised that an alarm signal was received, including the response to the verification call, when an authorized respondent states that fire service response is not desired?
- (e) Should the public service fire communications center be notified and advised that an alarm signal was received, including the response to the verification call, for all other situations, including both a hostile fire and no answer to the verification call?
- (f) What other actions should be required by standard operating procedures?

In essence, if you can verify, through established company policy, that the alarm is false within 90 seconds, then retransmission to the emergency communications center is not mandatory.

If you have any questions about this interpretation, I can be reached at 233-0103.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Collins, FPE
Bureau of Safety Services
Palm Beach County Fire/Rescue

cc: Chief Herman Brice, Administrator
BOSS District Chiefs
False Alarm File

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