



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	12/28/2005	Interpretation #	05-011 Revised
Topic	Chime Notification Circuits		
Code Section(s)	NFPA 72 (1999) Section 3-8.4.1.1		
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Do fire alarm notification circuits where chimes are installed in Group I-1.1 occupancies need to comply with the survivability requirements of NFPA 72 (1999) 3-8.4.1.1?

No. NFPA 72 (1999), Section 3-8.4.1.1 applies to fire alarm systems providing notifications for the relocation or partial evacuation of occupants. In most hospitals, “chimes” sound throughout the facility to notify staff of a fire condition and do not have voice communication capabilities related to relocation or evacuation. Hospitals utilize “paging” over non-supervised P.A. systems for relocation and fire location information.

Where a “voice communication fire alarm system” is installed in a hospital for relocation/defend in place, the survivability requirements apply when required by the building or fire code.