



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	March 29, 2007	Interpretation	06-098
Topic	Designated Autism Classrooms: Fire Alarm Strobe/speakers		
Code Section(s)	CBC, Section 305.9.3 CCR, Title 19, Chapter 1, Subsection 1, Article 3, and Section 3.10		
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**We are starting to develop elementary and high schools with consideration to Autism students. The strobes/speakers have the ability to trigger seizures in Autism students. The concern is that these alarms may do more harm than good in the classrooms designated for Autism students. Are there any exceptions that would allow a teacher to stop the strobe/speaker in their designated Autism classrooms to allow the students to exit the classroom?**

No.

Note: California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Chapter 1, Subsection 1, Article 3, and Section 3.10 requires that upon notification of a fire alarm signal all occupants shall be immediately evacuated from the building or be relocated in accordance with approved emergency plan.

However, California Fire Code (2001) Section 1006.2.7.1.1 does require “chimes and similar sounding appliances” for notification of staff only in medical facilities, for the intent of not upsetting patients which may result in exacerbating a patient’s medical condition and unnecessary harm.

With the written approval of the authority having jurisdiction, classrooms designated for Autism students or severely handicapped children in public schools, could also use this concept due to the similarities of the student’s medical concerns