




# City of Phoenix

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

## Explanatory Policy – Fire Alarm Systems in Existing Buildings

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Fire Alarm Systems in Existing Buildings	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> July 19, 2019
<b>REFERENCES:</b> The Phoenix Fire Code (2018 Edition) Section 1103.7	<b>REVIEW DATE:</b> July 2022
<b>APPROVED:</b>	
 John Mertens, Fire Marshal	

### Scope:

**Fire alarms where required—retroactive in existing buildings and structures.** An approved manual, automatic or manual and automatic fire alarm system shall be installed in existing buildings and structures in accordance with Sections 907.2 through 907.2.23. Where automatic sprinkler protection is provided in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 and connected to the building fire alarm system, automatic heat detection required by this section shall not be required. When an existing building is required to install a fire alarm system based on a change of occupancy classification, use or retroactive requirements per the building or fire code, fire alarm devices shall be installed throughout the area.

A minimum of 2 hours in nonautomatic sprinkler protected or 1 hour in automatic sprinkler-protected fire-resistance-rated fire barriers or horizontal assemblies shall separate the fire alarm protected and nonprotected areas.

An approved automatic fire detection system shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72. Devices, combinations of devices, appliances and equipment shall be approved. The automatic fire detectors shall be smoke detectors, except an approved alternative type of detector shall be installed in spaces such as boiler rooms where, during normal operation, products of combustion are present in sufficient quantity to actuate a smoke detector.