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## **FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS FOR ASCs IN MULTI-TENANT BUILDINGS**

The requirements for fire alarm systems in multi-tenant buildings housing ASCs are found in the 2000 edition of NFPA 101 and the 1999 edition of NFPA 72. The multi-tenant building requirements are found in NFPA 101 38.3.4/39.3.4 (new/existing shell buildings) and 9.6.2. ASC-specific requirements are found in NFPA 101 20.3.4/21.3.4 (new/existing ASCs). Detail for fire alarm system installation comes from NFPA 72.

Multi-tenant buildings are required to have fire alarm systems installed if they are more than one story -or- have at least 5,000 SF on levels below or above the exit level -or- are larger than 30,000 SF in total regardless of the number of stories.

When required, the multi-tenant building fire alarm system may be activated by manual pull devices located within five feet of every required exit from each floor, activation of a comprehensive (protecting every room or area) fire sprinkler system (with at least one manual pull device provided in addition), or activation of a comprehensive fire/smoke detection system (with at least one manual pull device provided in addition).

All ASCs are required to be provided with a manually activated fire alarm system for the ASC itself. Such a system must provide a manual pull station within five feet of every required exit from the ASC suite (exit doors to the exterior, and exit egress doors through fire rated walls separating the ASC from other interior spaces and common areas), located on the ASC side of the wall through which the given exit egress door occurs.

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