

# CODE SOLUTION

## FIRE ALARMS

### Fire Alarm Communication to Monitoring Stations Using Other Transmission Technologies



#### Issue:

Per the 2009 IBC, the applicable standard for fire alarm installations is NFPA 72-07. However, unlike more recent editions of NFPA 72, the 2007 edition does not recognize sole path cellular for communication to the monitoring station. Can sole path cellular installations be considered acceptable even though the current NFPA 72-07 Standard does not recognize it?

#### Solution:

Section 8.6.3.2.1.4 of NFPA 72-07 requires the use of two transmission channels - one telephone line and one other means of transmission. However, Section 1.5.1 allows for AHJ's to accept new technologies.

The important point NFPA 72 is making is that we must ensure the integrity of the communications between the alarm at the premises and the monitoring station. Traditional telephone service lines are being phased out and replaced by other technologies. However, the reliability of these new transmission methods must be ensured.

If the new control panels and communicators used in the installations are listed under UL 864 as meeting the integrity requirements of NFPA 72 (8.6.4.4), these new technologies can be approved under Sections 8.6.4.1 (Conformance), and 1.5 (Equivalency).

#### Code Sections:

IBC (2009) Section 907  
Fire Alarm and Detection  
Systems

NFPA 72 (2007)  
Sections 8.6.3.2.1.4 and 1.5.1

#### Issued by:

Michael Fink, Chief Code Official

#### Date:

December 14, 2017

#### Disclaimer:

This interpretation, policy or code application is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code application to specific projects may vary. There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method. You may want to investigate other options, or consult with a professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.